INSIDE THE TABLOID

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how does Britain rate:

RSDAY 6 MARCH 1997

WEATHER: Mainly fine; showers in the north

(IR45p) 40p

THE TABLOID Tom Cruise reborn as a funny man

Major and MPs bicker over gaffes

EXCLUSIVE

by Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Semior Tory MPs are so jittery about the party's electoral outlook that they have privately visited John Major to complain that the Government is skidding about on "banana skins". They protested about recent ministerial gaffes, confused messages and blurred party leadership.

On Thesday night, officers of the party's 1922 Committee, including nearly 20 of the senior Tory backbench MPs, led by Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922, went to the Prime Minister to underline the growing anxiety on their benches at the recent disarray in the Cabinet. Mr Major, by all accounts, was deeply irritated.

They complained strongly about the disarray between Stephen Dorrell and Michael Forsyth over devolution, between Kenneth Clarke and Malcolm Rifkind about "hostility" to the Emopean single currency, and Mr Dorrell's gaffe in ruling out ERM entry in 1999. All these fumbled mes-sages had damaged morale,

they told Mr Major.
The 1922 executive officers, who include some of the Rongest-serving Tory MPs, gave their backing to the Tory Party chairman Brian Mawhinney, but complained about the confusion over who was in charge of the Conservative election campaign being mounted by

Conservative Central Office. One Tory MP who was there said: "Brian is doing a very good iob. He is hard hitting, and can

put Labour on the spot. But Labour's lead, there are too many chiefs." With only e

The Prime Minister's friends dismissed the backbench complaints as a "whinge list" and said Mr Major had shown them a firm smack of leadership. They came with a fairly

lengthy whinge list, but the Prime Minister sent them away with a flea in the ear," a former

with a fairly lengthy whinge list, but the PM sent them away with a flea in the ear $\mathbf{9}$

Mr Major is said to have im-pressed the group with his determination to lead from the front in the campaign for the election, which they were convinced will be on 1 May. "It will be a very personal campaign. He is very re-laxed, and is pretty upbeat, now that the decks are being cleared,"

said another Tory source. conviction that Mr Major is planning a long campaign with polling day on 1 May, and that he will use the Conservative Central Council in Bath on 14 March as the springboard for

With only eight weeks to go before the election, the arrival of the senior officers of the Tory backbench to complain about the confusion over the cannaism may be seen by Mr Major as a further "banana skin", and he will be irritated that the meetmg had leaked. The Tory Party chairman was

keen at the weekend to answer criticism about the confusion surrounding the Tory campaign by declaring "Tm in charge". There is continuing concern, however, that the Tory campaign in the heat of battle will face interference from others close to the leadership, includ-ing Lord Saatchi, Michael Hes-eltine, the deputy Prime Minister, David Willetts, head of research, Danny Finkelstein, the director of research at Conservative central office, and Charles Lewington, the director of the party's communica-

Mr Mawhinney killed the "tearful lion" poster campaign, which many Torics felt had missed the point. He overruled Lord Saatchi by insisting that the latest poster, "Tony and Bill", should be tested with a group of voters before it was given the go-ahead.

The MPs who met the Prime Minister believe that the latest campaign posters are on the right lines, by attacking Labour's spending commitments, but they want the campaign to be more hard-hitting. and above all, they want the Cabinet "singing from the same the Tory fight-back against hymn sheet."



When smoking was cinema chic: Audrey Hepburn in Breakfast at Tiffany's. BAT are close to settling with US lung cancer sufferers of her generation Photograph: Paramount Pictures

Cigarette makers pay their debt to early cancer victims

Patricia Wynn Davies

Pressure mounted on the two biggest British tobacco companies to settle claims from lung cancer victims yesterday after BAT held out the prospect of a multi-billion pound settlement with thousands of smokers in the United States.

BAT, maker of one in ten of the 5.3 trillion cigarettes smoked every year, said for the first time that it would consider a "sensible proposal" to resolve its 40-year stand-off with the anti-smoking lobby, although it stopped short of admitting liability for any deaths.

Martin Broughton, chief ex-ecutive of London-based BAT, which makes Lucky Strike, Kool and Benson & Hedges in the United States, said the cost of litigation and the impact of outstanding American court cases on shares had forced it to

He added: "There ought to be a sensible figure ... that would get lawsuits off our agenda and let us get on with running our business

The climbdown is a dramatdecades in which the industry has consistently refused to admit the harm cigarettes cause

er paid a cent in damages. While BAT does not sell cigarettes in Britain, the company's shift in attitude could have important implications for claims by British smokers against two other tobacco giants. In the first group legal action in the UK, 40 cancer victims are claiming that Gallaher, which makes British

Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut, and Imperial Tobacco Group, which makes Embassy and Players, negligently failed to cut tar levels in their products when it became clear that this would have reduced cancer

among smokers.

Martyn Day, of Leigh, Day &
Co, the solicitors co-ordinating the case, said: "I think there is no question that BAT considering settlement will have a very big impact on the cases here, because of the effect the smoking litigation has had on share prices.

"We know that the prices have been severely depressed here. By having some sort of resolution they will lift the cloud that is hanging over their heads. The pressures from stockhold-ers in Gallahers and Imperial will be very great," he said.

Mr Day, has estimated that if the two companies lost, they could be at risk of claims for the next 10 to 15 years from smokers who took up the habit in the late 1940s and early 1950s, the beyday of cigarette advertising when the joys of tobacco were also at the heart of cinema chic. Taking an average claim of £50,000, that could cost them ic development after four £1bn to £2bn a year over the 10 to 15 year period.

Ash, the anti-smoking group, has been urging investors to when considering whether to invest in the tobacco industry. But Ash is concerned that the tobacco conglomerates might settie cases in America and Europe, but largely unregulated sales would continue unabated in the Third World.

BAT results, page 18, **Business Comment, page 19**

Lilley unveils his pensions revolution

Political Correspondent The Government shook one of the main pillars of the welfare

plans to hand pensions over to he private sector. The basic state pension is to he phased out over the next genration if the Conservatives stay in power, along with the State Earnings-Related Pen-tion Scheme, Serps.

The revelation brought a de-Mighted reaction from the City, which stands to win massive Famounts of new, state-subsidused business from the changes announced by John Major and his Social Security Secretary, Pe-Et Lilley.

QUICKLY

system and proportional rep-

Electoral choice Labour yesterday promised to Offer voters a choice between the present, first-past-the-post

Swiss offer deal

Albania clashes

sonnel carriers, but armed civil-

tans appeared to come out

shead in early fighting Page 10

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couragement of home-ownerstate last night as it announced ship did during the 1980s. "For years we have pursued a strong and consistent policy of

encouraging personal owner-ship by individuals and families. It enables them to provide for themselves ... with self-reliance comes self-respect and greater freedom of choice," he said.

The plans, worked on by ministers over many months and agreed by the Cabinet on Tuesday, would not be completely in place until 2040. They would alto stick with their current pen- since the increase in owner-oc-

Mr Major denied that the announcement was designed as an furnish anyone now in their people contributed to each old electoral ploy, but he must hope it could encourage the same insic Pension Plus. stincts among voters as the en-

two pensions - a basic pension

teens or younger with a new Baage pension, he said, but by 2030 there would be three pensioners Each employee would have for every five working people. Labour said the plans would

INSIDE Lilley the radical guesses 40 years ahead; Labour split over Serps; £175 a week and big savings, page 8

Major challenged to live on monthly pension, page 9

and a top-up fund, to which they could add extra, voluntary contributions if they wished. . Mr Lilley said the proposals would bring about the largest ex-

lead to a huge public spending gap as the scheme was phased in. The Treasury would have to pay twice, funding existing pen-sioners while subsidising private low most of today's employees tension of personal ownership pensions for those at work.

year before the first private pension-holders retired, the state would face an extra £7bn payment.
The tax and spending prob-

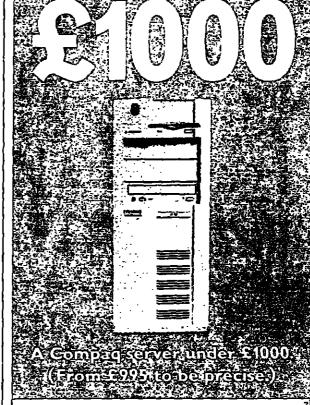
lem with the Conservative pension proposals is utterly basic: there are huge front-end costs which will run into billions of pounds and mean higher taxes fused to answer is: how much?" he said.

Conservative sources said the equalisation of men's and women's retirement ages and 1995 reforms to Seros would save £13bn per year and more than fill the gap.

Conservatives when Mr Major finally calls the election will be a vote for the privatisation of the state pension, a vote for more insecurity. And it will also be a vote for higher taxes.

The Association of British Insurers was enthusiastic . Its director general, Mark Boleat. said: "Individuals will have a for everyone. The question Mr Major and Mr Lilley have re-pension arrangements and be able to see much more clearly what provision they are making and how their pension fund is

building up."
The Consumers' Association warned that the "appalling track record" of the private pensions industry could come back to The Labour leader, Tony haunt future governments.



The new Compaq ProSignia 200 server range starts at an incredible £995 plus VAT. This is the first time that a Compaq server has ever been available for less than £1000. Yet, it is still a server range with all the performance and reliability

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people of New Zealand". For home." Michael Atherton New Zealand, plus five or six

escatation in time for a new The Labour Party has done it, nilennum election. Page 6 Switzerland yesterday anhounced plans to endow a Libn boundation for victims of Nazi

England's history of flying the Page 5
Leading article, page 15 Southern Albama was the scene of a massive security operation, including soldiers equipped with tanks and armoured per-

hind the initiative, knows full well that a few unchoice words can do a lot of damage. After annoying the Zimbabweans with claims that England had "flippin' murdered them" in suffers from a "superiority the drawn First lest, he later explained that his players were Every player involved in the under-performing because they

bigger gaffes, however, few come close to the comment of lan Botham - part of the England coaching team this winter -who in 1984 said that Pakistan "is the sort of place every man should send his mother-incoach and one of the forces be- law for a month, all expenses

> A present England player, the bowler Phil Tufnell, whose signature time "Cigarettes and Alcohol" by Oasis gives the PR gurus plenty to work on, summed up his feelings on the 1993 tour of India thus: "I've done the elephant. I've done the poverty. I might as well go will be addressed."

caused offence at last year's World Cup for his response to persistent questioning by a local Pakistani journalist. "Will someone remove that buffoon," an exasperated England captain Now all is to change. "The

seminar will take the players through the whole issue of training them to represent their country," Lloyd said of his new sporting ambassadors, "We will look at the problems we had in Zimbabwe, and we will discuss what is coming up. The whole subject of preparing players



est cricketers sent to charm school

Nick Duxbury

the Tories did it years ago and now the England cricket team are to bring in the profession-als to smarten up their image on the campaign trail.

flag on tour to the far corners of the globe is littered with diplomatic incidents, and HQ at Lord's has decided that a PR make over will prevent the kind of misconception that the team

Home News2-9

Leading Articles 15

others on the fringe of the senior side, are to attend a twoday charm school next month which will teach the team that tact can be just as effective as

David Lloyd, the England

winter tour of Zimbabwe and preferred "the food, climate and

THE TABLOID





significant shorts

Anonymous Labour fund given the all-clear

The Labour's Party's fund to raise money from anonymous donors has been given the all-clear by an all-party committee of MPs which has decided not to investigate it. The controversial "blind" fund was set up in 1995 as a way of raising money in such a way that the identities of the donors were not known to anyone in the party apart from the board of trustees, chaired by Lord Merlyn-Rees, the former Home Secretary.

The fund was the subject of a complaint by David Shaw, the Tory MP for Dover, who last year wrote to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, suggesting it was "inconceivable that a donor would not seek to draw the receiving MP's attention to his donation at some time". However, the Labour Party had taken the precaution of checking with Sir Gordon whether the fund breached parliamentary rules, and Sir Gordon felt he had to refer the complaint to the Standards and Privileges Committee.

Now, the committee has effectively rejected the complaint by deciding that it would only consider the allegation that Mr Blair knew about the identity of donors to the fund and has asked Mr Shaw to provide evidence on that point, which is likely to prove

Child hammer victim was tortured



Detectives hunting the killer of Lin and Megan Russell revealed yesterday that Lin was bound and gagged during the hammer attack and a shoelace tied round her six-year-old daughter's neck to make her comply with the killer's demands.

Lin, 44, and Megan were found bludgeoned to death on a footpath near their home in Chillenden, near Canterbury, Kent, on 9 July last year. The mother's elder daughter Josie. nine, survived the attack

'Mail' escapes contempt charge

The newspaper which branded five unconvicted men as the murderers of Stephen Lawrence will not face contempt of court proceedings. The office of Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, said yesterday: "The Attorney General has considered carefully the suggestion that articles published by the Daily Mail following the inquest into the death of Stephen Lawrence might constitute contempt of court at common law. He has concluded that proceedings for contempt would not be justified."

Alcoholic surgeon cleared by Sheriff

An alcoholic surgeon was yesterday cleared of causing the deaths of two elderly patients who died following operations he

In a ruling into the deaths. Sheriff Principal Gordon Nicholson found surgeon Gerald Davies, 49, could not be held responsible for the deaths of Lothian patients Willie Callachan, 69, of Bridgend, and 56-year-old Ann Halloran, of Livingston. Both died after undergoing bowel operations carried out by Mr Davies at St John's

Twelve arrested on abuse charges

Twelve people have been arrested following a major investigation by police into child abuse. Seven children, aged between four months and eight years and from two households, have been taken

into emergency care as a result of the inquiry. Police made the arrests early yesterday morning when they executed eight warrants in Portsmouth and went to another address in Äldershot, Hampshite.

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Or Carey: 'What matters is your own integrity, what you really believe in Photograph: Tom Pilston

Essex Archbishop captured by fly on the vestry wall

Second only to the Royal Family in the British establishment, the Archbishop of Canterbury is a modest Essex man who keeps his wife's teddy bear in the bedroom, supports Arsenal Football Club chiefly because his mother did not have a hat. and has a gentle sense of humour.

next month, which sets out to show both the public and private sides of the first working-class head of the Church of England.

But above all, the series shows, he is a man of unshakeable faith, with a determination to make the Church face up to the realities of the end of the 20th century. "My wife teases me that I have 100 good ideas every day but only one is good. But if I am convinced that an idea is God-given it will take a lot to knock me

And when the Radio 4 broadcaster John Humphrys pushed hard for Dr Carey to comment on adultary, following the announcement of the Prince and Princess of Wales' divorce, he revealed what can only be described as an irreverent wit. "Nasty man," he smiled to his press secretary when the microphone was

switched off

His determination to succeed stemmed from failing and has a gentle sense or number.

This is the picture of Dr George Carey to emerge from an unprecedented fly-on-the-vestry-wall document an unprecedented fly-on-the-vestry-wall document in the sense of the sense for but ended up in the RAF and it was there he heard his calling. On being told by a young ordinarid that he would "never make it" he became determined to prove the doubters wrong.

Dr Carey met his wife, Eileen, in 1960, when he was 20 and she was 17. They had met at their local parish.

church in Dagenham.

Nowadays, when the couple have a few days off, they escape to their flat in Bristol, where they reed, "talk a lot" and play Scrabble. "She nearly always wins. so I learn the grace of humility when I play with her.

Despite being troubled by what he perceives as society's moral shortcomings and frequently depressed by his portrayal in the media, he is still able to draw on "an inner reservoir of cheerfulness".

"You have to say 'don't wony about it, that will one witched off.

day be forgotten. What really matters is your own inDr Carey grew up in Dagenham and is proud of the

tegrity, what you believe in'."

Kate Watson-Smyth

Future is all in the past, says Clarke

A technology that was barely nascent 25 years ago let the scientist and author Arthur C. Clarke (right) sit at home in Sri Lanka yesterday and offer his vision of the next quarter-century to a con-

terence in London. Via a satellite video link. Dr Clarke, 79, predicted Dick Tracystyle high quality wristwatch video telephones by the end of this century, and a computer at least in every village - if not every home in the developed world.

The key to understanding the future was the evidence of the past, he told the Convergence 97 conference, whose theme is the convergence of computing, media and communication industries. "Twenty years ago most offices did not have a fax machine, and still used typewriters. Now the fax machine is being replaced by e-mail and the typewriter is almost redundant." he said. "But all this is just a beginning. Everyone will soon

have access to everyone else." However, he said he feared some of the consequences of changing technology - especially the information explosion and what he called *information pollu-

Dr Clarke is best known for the book and film 2001: A Space Odyssey, and its sequels. The lat-

Like the bubbles in the football fans' song, Danny

Baker, the motor-mouth radio and TV presenter, may

'bloke' culture, was yesterday sacked by BBC Radio

hell after the official awarded a controversial penalty

on on London radio station GLR in the late Eighties.

before presenting his own BBC 1 chat show and en-

dorsing soap powder. Recently he has returned to ra-

dio, although he is still a scriptwriter for his friend

During his Wednesday evening radio show last

week he also encouraged journalists to: "Go out and

doorstep the referee like he was a member of Oasis."

Baker harangued callers to his show. The Baker Line.

Chris Evans' TFI Friday show on Channel 4.

who disagreed with his view of the penalty.

Baker made his name as the tootball fans' chambi-

have climbed too high. Baker, the embodiment of

5 Live for encouraging fans to make a referee's life

in the Leicester v Chelsea FA Cup tie last week.



est book, 3001, is published at the end of this month.

He is famous for predicting satellite communication back in the 1940s, and has published numerous serious scientific papers dealing with emerging and anticipated technology, as well as dozens of best-selling science fiction novels and his well-known "Çlarke's Laws"..

He ended his speech yesterday with a light-hearted warning to conference delegates, telling them: "Maybe our successors, the computers and intelligent machines, which will be running the world for us, will get fed up with humans and get rid of us. If they do, it will serve us right."

Blokeish Baker's bubble finally bursts

Bangkok connection for Queen's new press assistant

A Briton who went to live and work in Thailand after university, and was asked to help with the Queen's state visit to Bangkok last year, has been appointed as assistant press secretary to the

David Tuck, 30, will take up his new appointment next week, Buckingham Palace announced

yesterday. He fills the vacancy created by the promotion of Penny Russell-Smith to be deputy press secretary, when Geoff Crawford succeeded Charles Anson

last month as press secretary. Mr Tuck, who was educated at Westminster School and University College, London, worked for the British Embassy in Bangkok after deciding to stay in that part of the world.

He was not a career diplomat but was employed locally at the embassy, said a Palace

spokesman, Since 1995 he has been head of the British Trade Office in Vientiane, Laos, but last year agreed to return to Thailand to help with

Last November he got into trouble for telling Tot-

Roger Mosey, controller of Radio 5 Live, said Bak-

Baker refused to continue working for Radio 5 Live

on his Sunday afternoon show, but will stay with GLR

But not all of his bubbles have burst, Talk Radio,

the commercial radio station which made a failed bid

to lure Chris Evans when he walked out of Radio 1 in

January, claims it will have Baker on air "in the very

tenham Hotspur fans, angry at their team's perfor-

mance, to throw their match programmes onto the

er's outbursts could no longer be tolerated. "This

wasn't the first occasion when he crossed the divid-

ing line between being lively, humorous and contro-

versial and being insulting to the audience."

pitch - which is against the law.

Shortage of medical staff in NHS casualty units

Britain's casualty departments lack doctors, nurses and intens care beds, says a survey published today. Intensive care beds make up only 1 per cent of all NHS beds, compared with 6 per cent in the US, and mortality rates are higher.

Nine out of 10 accident and emergency consultants said that... medical staffing levels were inadequate, while three-quarters thought that nursing levels were too low. Many said that they were

working at or beyond safety limits.

The survey, commissioned by the Association of London,
Government and UNISON, found that the situation in London was
especially acute, following the closure of almost 3,000 of the capital's beds (14.2 per cent) since 1991 - twice the national average rate. Bed occupancy rates in London hospitals are 95-100 per cent, well above the recommended level of 80-85 per cent. which would allow for emergency admissions.

A&E: NHS in Distress, NHS Support Federation. Tel: 0171.633

UTILITIES

BT discounts are false economy

Most domestic telephone users would still be better switching from BT, despite its discount schemes, the Consumers' Association said yesterday. Its research was published as figures showed some 87,000 customers a month are leaving BT for cable telecom companies — an increase of almost 50 per cent on the last published rate of 60,000 a month.

The analysis by Which? magazine found that BT remains the most expensive option for most consumers, with many saving up to 20 per cent by switching to other providers.

When all the companies were compared using a typical quarterly bill, including rental costs and all UK calls, all of BT's rivals were cheaper, even after the widely advertised discount schemes were taken into account. Only people whose call bills were less than £12.69 per quarter got a better deal from BT than the cable companies. Those which came out best were Bell Cablemedia, Cable London, ComCast [Tleesside], Ionica and Nynex — consistently a fifth or more cheaper.



EMPLOYMENT

Women face pay discrimination

Women are out of work for shorter stretches of time than men, but Around 28 per cent of women three their control and 28 per cent of women three their control and their control and their control and three months, compared with 22 fler cent of men.

Around 28 per cent of women three three control wedge for longer

than a year, well below the 45 pair thank one term usumpleyed men, according to Labour Market frends, produced by the Office for National Statistics.

The average hourly wage for full-time women workers is £7-80 per cent of that for men (£8.75). Part-time earnings are roughly the same for both sexes, at just over £5 an hour.

The number of women with jobs has increased by 1.3 million in the last decade. Half of those are part-time workers. Overall, women form an increasing proportion of the workforce, representing more than 43 per cent last year, the report said.

Trial tamishes taxman's image

A quarter of finance directors have lost faith in the Inland Revenue in the wake of the corruption standal surrounding maverick tax investigator Michael Allcock. According to a survey published today, the finance chiefs said the affair was a "poor

reflection of the Revenue's management control".

Allock was jailed for five years at the Old Bailey last mouth for taking bribes. The former inspector was convicted of six charges of corruption — but cleared of five others. The case has shaken the Revenue to its 300-year-old foundations.

The survey of 200 finance directors, conducted by Accountancy Age magazine and Reed Accountancy Personnel, found a quarter also believed Allcock was "unlikely to be an isolated incident". One said: "It has shattered my respect for their integrity."

SCIENCE

Healing properties of tobacco

Tobacco could one day be good for us - or at least tobacco plants might, by producing artificial blood. A team of French scientists has genetically modified tobacco plants so that they produce haemoglobin, the molecule essential for carrying oxygen around the body, in their roots and seeds.

The genes for two different protein "subunits" are needed to make haemoglobin, and have to be assembled into the correct formation. When the researchers added the genes to the plants, they found that haemoglobin was produced - and that when extracted and purified, it functioned just as in the human body,

binding both to oxygen and to carbon monoxide.

Reporting on their work today in the science journal Nature, the team hope that such transgenic plants could in fiture provide a cheap and safe source of various human proteins.

At present, the haemoglobin used for a range of artificial blood substitutes is mainly derived from human donors, animal blood or genetically engineered animals. But those sources all carry the risk of contamination and infection.

Charles Arthur

ASTRONOMY

Evidence found for binary stars

Cinemagoers have known since Star Wars that planets can orbit around double, or "binary" stars: Luke Skywalker's home planet has a double senset. Now astronomers have caught up. Today, in the science journal *Nature* they reveal the first evidence to back up the cinema vision, in the form of mages of a dust disk around a

hinary star system more than 1,000 light years away.

Although planets or asteroids around other stars cannot be seen directly through telescopes, astronomers believe that the fine dust they generate could be revealed as a disc lit up by reflected light. However, only one other example of such a dust disc has been seen before, around the star Beta Pictoris.

The new finding is important because more than half the stars in our galaxy are members of binary or multiple systems. The binary star now thought to be a potential candidate for a planetary system is known only as BD+31x643. It is 1.075 light years from the sun, in the constellation of Perseus. **Charles Arthur**

North Street



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

مكذا من الأصل

for the time being.

THE INDEPENDENT • THURSDAY 6 MARCH 1997



إ هكذا من الأصل

Going bananas over mutton dressed as art

Phil Reeves Moscow

There are black eyes and cut lios. There are scores of ontraged witnesses. There is a crime scene, stained by a pool of blood. And there is a decapitated corpse. A cut-and-dried case, you

might think?
Nothing is that easy in the world of performance art. The sacrifice of a sheep at an art fair in Moscow and the ensuing fight pitted ethics and freedom of expression in a squabble which rivals that over Damien Hirst s notorious cows. It happened at the fair's opening at Moscow's Central House of Artists. The moment they saw performance artists from Kazakhstan bringing in a sheep, a group of German artists became convinced that it was doomed to die. They pleaded for its life. They

organised a petition. One of their number -Simon Stockhausen, son of the composer - played the saxophone to the animal, to calm it down. All in vain. Watched by dozens of horrified guests, the Kazakhs slaughtered the sheep. smeared its entrails over their

from sacrificial cups. It was. one told the Moscow Times, a painless traditional ritual - or legitimate performance art.

The Germans, a group called Banane, disagreed. They specialise in the less bloodthirsty "art" of spraying bananas on world monuments, and have already left their mark on the Kremlin gates. After hearing shricks from the guests, they stormed the Kazakhs and launched into a five-minute fight in which the exhibit - an abstract affair involving blood, milk and blue water (the colours of the Russian flag) - was wrecked. The Kazakhs have since been banned from the exhibition. But the arguments go on. The Germans are still furious. saving the Kazakhs achieved nothing more meaningful that cruelty. But, worse, they were also passé, as sacrificial art first began in the sixties. "This kind of sacrificial art is cliched now," said Thomas Baum-Gärtel. But the Kazakhs have their defenders. including one of Moscow's top gallery owners. Marat Gelman, host of several Kazakh chicken slavings, who accused the Germans of "shocking snobbery", and ignoring national traditions.

BBC sells its beasts, toffs and Daleks to the world



Palin, whose programmes are among the top sellers



and best-sel	ling programmes
RRC nest act	A SECTION OF THE COUNTRY
Title	SECTION 1
Hills Chart	Material History
The Living Planet	
Fight of the Condon	Drama 74
Doctor Who	6
Armai Chippings	
The Six Wives of Henry VIII	Drama
ING 20% ALLEGATION	Drama 2 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4
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Supersense	Manta Richard
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Tender is the Night	Drama
10000 Paris	Harris Harris
Ascent of Man	Cornedy 60
Fawity Towers	1.00 to 1.00 t

Brighton brightened up yesterday, but the sudden burst of sunshine didn't cheer everyone on the rain-sodden Sussex coast. The improvement in the weather was an unwanted distraction for a weird bunch of people who were perfectly content to huddle indoors and watch television morning, noon

On Sunday afternoon the by 400 television executives using her multi-lingual skills and drawn from 90 bro 40 countries.

Once again, programme buy-ers from all parts of the globe came, saw and concurred that no other media organisation anywhere on the planet can match the British Broadcasting Corporation in the consistent quality stakes.
This was the 21st anniversary

of BBC Showcase, an annual jamboree in which Auntie Beeb pitches her best programmes to an admiring multi-lingual au-

But what started off as an amateurish little affair involving a quick trawl through the archives and a few trestle tables has ballooned into one of the biggest events in the broadcasting

calendar. Auntie is becoming an ever more aggressive exporter as she endeavours to supplement her license fee income by developing the BBC as a global media brand. Ruby Wax, Sir David Atten-

borough and Michael Palin have all been brought down to Brighton to sprinkle some stardust on the grey promenade. BBC Worldwide, the organ-

enterprising strategy, generated £131m from programme distribution last year, bringing £77m in gross value to the BBC. Its aim is to treble this commercial return during the current 10-year charter period.

Directing its international distribution network is a 30year-old Hispanic-American woman called Fabiola Arredondo. Head-hunted from the German media giant Bertelsmann, she has clearly been in her el-Brighton Centre was taken over ement over the last four days, otiating nous in order to cut an endless succession of instant deals.

> little affair has ballooned into one of the

biggest events of the calendar 9

"I see a real opportunity for the BBC to develop a terrific brand which has, up to now, been rather under-exploited internationally," she says, weaving her way through the tightly-packed viewing booths.

The 400 buyers are each assigned their own makeshift booth, kitted out with a portable television and a a video recorder. Apart from a few famous props strategically dotted around the place, such as Del Boy Trotter's beaten-up yellow van from Only Fools and Hors-

isation established to pursue this es and the hideous costumes

move their headphones and emerge from behind behind their hardboard partition when they want to borrow another tape, or stretch their legs, pop out for a quick smoke, and slap down a coffee in the adjoining

café.
"The BBC has been the best for years and we're prepared to pay more for its consistently high standards," enthuses Dieter Kaiser, one of a threestrong delegation from WDR in at the Grand Hotel.

The Germans, along with many others, are wild about wildlife programming and simply can't get enough from David Attenborough and his col-leagues at the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol, which is currently celebrating its 40th an-

niversary.
Since the collapse of Communism, the East European networks have also become steadily bigger customers. Although their resources are limited, they are assiduously cultivated by Maria Burguera, BBC's senior sales executive for Russia and Eastern Europe, who, like her boss, has a Hispanic background.

Serbia's broadcasting corporation was banned from the BBC Showcase at the height of the Balkan conflict, so its head of acquisitions, Nada Pejovic Hadzic, is happy to be back in Brighton for the fourth time in 10 years. "We cover a smaller transmission territory since the death of Yugoslavia, so we need to buy more from abroad to fill our schedules," she said.



Multi-lingual: Fabiola Arredondo, 30, who was head-hunted from a German media giant to direct BBC Worldwide's international distribution network

Photograph: Andrew Hasson

also had a strong presence since the death of apartheid ended the Equity-inspired ban on television exports.

Pauline Cunningham, from the pay-TV service M-Net, is snapping up all the classic com-

when they were international pariahs. She has brought Fawlny Towers, Yes, Minister and To the Manor Born to M-Net's 1 million subscribers.

She finds her annual trip to

South African networks have edy and drama series that her Brighton "far more civilised" compatriots were deprived of than the other big television markets, which are held in such as Monte Carlo and Cannes. -We can actually sit back and watch a whole series if we want," she said.

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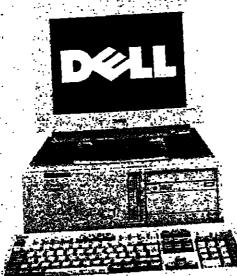
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Girls on top again, as inspectors say failing schools are full of boys

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

First, the statistics confirmed girls outstrip boys at every stage of their school careers. Now the education world has served up another harsh truth for the male sex - the majority of

pupils have many more boys

than girls. In its first major overview of the characteristics of failing schools, the inspection agency Ofsted yesterday said gender imbalance was a notable

Of 260 schools which have ship, underachievement by been judged to need "special measures" since the inspection cycle began in 1993, not one is girls-only, most are mixed but

with a big majority of boys. Ofsted's survey revealed that failing schools are almost always characterised by poor leader-

pupils and a high proportion of unsatisfactory teaching.

The findings held true even though institutions failing their pupils spanned the whole range of schools, from inner-city sec-ondaries to special schools and tiny nural primaries.

Conversely, schools which had failed but were on the road to recovery, or were among the 19 freed from special measures, were united in their tactics for improvement. The most common step, taken by half of those failing, was to replace long-serving headteachers.

clear action plans with measurable targets, boosted curriculum planning, tackled poor behaviour and attendance, communicated well with parents and managed their finances

efficiently.

Improving schools drew up list have closed so far, though one has shut since last summer. Ofsted's head of school improvement, Dr Elizabeth Passmost failing schools had a high proportion of boys added to the gency's findings in a report last July, confirming girls generally

performance.

That study, The Gender Divide, revealed that girls did better than boys in English from the age of seven and were more successful than boys at every level in GCSE.

Poor marking flaws primary tests, says study

Education Editor

Serious flaws in national tests for 11-year-olds, which will form the basis of next week's Government league tables for primary schools, are revealed in a study published today.

The research from King's College, London, says that the questions and marking of the English tests were so bad that nearly one in four children was given the wrong "level" or grade. Most received a lower level than they deserved.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, originally planned to wait until the tests had "bedded down" before publishing primary leagues tables but was persuaded by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, to change her mind. Labour said last week that its new literacy targets would be based on the tests.

Government exam advisers who supervised the tests immediately condemned the study as "flimsy".

In science, the researchers found, one in ten children was given the wrong level and some questions were so badly worded that they could be answered by guesswork or without any

knowledge of science. Researchers re-marked 338 test scripts by 143 pupils in ten schools. The expected "level" for an 11-year-old is 4. Pupils

Children's stories

"Franke was a little grey mouse of about two years old. His mother had died when he was only three weeks old leaving him all alone in the world."

And later: "Yummy, yummy, yummy in my tummy, said Franke as he edged nearer to the great slab of cheese."

Examples from a "twee" story awarded a high Level 5 which researchers say was only worth

"Kevin was getting really frus-trated because it just wasn't his day. He kept missing the ball and was always getting tackled when he had the ball. It was his worst reformance on the football nich performance on the football pitch ever. The worst thing was that he had been dropped from the five-a-side tournament because of his play in recent days." example from a story awarded level 4 which researchers say deserved Level 5.

graded Level 5 are two years

ahead of their age. In English, marking mistakes were found in every single paper. in 84 per cent of science ones and 54 per cent of maths scripts. The level changes mainly involved more able pupils, who moved

from Level 4 to Level 5.

In story writing, the researchers argue, the markers were prejudiced against topics such as football, adventure and crime, often written by boys, and in favour of twee, "Disnevesque styles characterised by 'little' and

Nearly two-thirds of the ques-

were unclear, the report, commissioned by the Association of

Teachers and Lecturers, said. One question asked pupils to say whether or not a boy got on with his brother and to explain their reasons for choosing yes or no. There was no indication that an extra mark was awarded only if they said that he both got on with him and did not get on with him.

In science, says the report, "correct answers could be achieved by a lucky guess." In a question on magnets, for instance, candidates had to choose between the words "repel" and "attract" so there was a 50 per cent chance of obtaining each answer without knowing anything about magnets or the meaning of either word.

Professor Margaret Brown, professor of maths education at King's, says in the foreword: "The study shows that both the tests and the marking have not yet reached sufficiently high standards to justify teacher and public confidence. Its findings are important because of the major consequences of these tests for schools, teachers and pupils."

Dr Nick Tate, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, called the research flimsy and biased. The authority's own study by Bath University of 10,000 scripts from 1,600 pupils had found none of the flaws.



Labour threat to super-grammar

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

Labour could overturn plans to build the first grammar school in Britain for over 30 years if it wins the general election.

The party yesterday pledged to review a scheme for an élite 'super-grammar" for the top 5 per cent of pupils in Milton Keynes, which has just been approved by Gillian Shephard, the review would be in line with

Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

The review would take into account two previous local consultations on the proposal, in which a majority of parents were opposed. Supporters of selection are likely to seize on Labour's pledge as evidence that the party remains antagonistic to grammar schools. However, Labour claims a

making parental wishes paramount, as the consultations revealed six in 10 object to the plan. The party said last month it would not change the status of any existing grammar school

unless parents voted for it. Proposals for a grammar school in Milton Keynes, the only part of Buckinghamshire without a grammar system, have divided parents and local politicians since the scheme

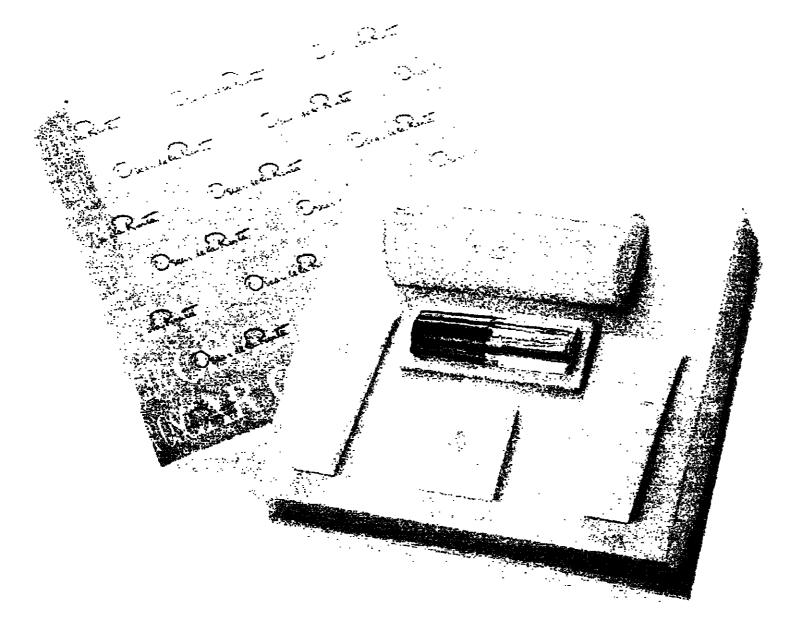
was mooted 10 years ago. Government approval has come only months before a general election and weeks before the handover of control of the city from Conservative-controlled Buckinghamshire County Council to a new Labour-run Milton Keynes unitary authority, following local government

reorganisation.
The Labour leadership of the new authority insists the

county has no right to impose its will on a city for which it will On Tuesday night, Milton Keynes Borough Council voted unanimously to continue to op-

pose the grammar school. However, under education law, last week's go-ahead from Mrs Shephard means that the city's authority is obliged to put the plan into practice, subject

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Evans the Mouth grovels to Major after touch of verbal diarrhoea

John Major's unreserved condemuation of right-wing Tory MP David Evans for racist and sexist remarks made during an interview with a school magazine, sat uneasily yesterday in light of their past relationship.

The member for Welwyn and Hatfield, or Evans the Mouth, as he is known in the corridors of Westminster, provoked the humiliating attack from the Prime Minister, after describing his Labour election opponent as a single girl with "three bastard children" who had "never done a proper job".

And in his remarks to sixthformers at Stanborough School, Mr Evans called Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, "dead from the neck upwards" and said the Prime Minister was vindictive and unforgiving".

But the self-made millionaire and cockney swaggerer yester-Oday witnessed how unforgiving his leader really is when he was forced to issue a grovelling apology on Conservative Central Office notepaper, following a strong rebuke by the Chief Whip, Alastair Goodlad.

Mr Evans said: "The comments which have been reported were taken out of context. After due consideration, I regret some of the things I said and I apologise to the Prime Minister and to others for any embarrassment or offence which may have been caused."

The party machine ensured





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Soundbites from terrier of the back benches gems include: "Ask any London taxi driver if they'll

The wit and wisdom of David The Labour Party wobble on everything. Had they been defending British sheep farmers, they would have achieved a load of jelly and red at that." (1992)

Will the Prime Minister confirm that unlike that lot opposite we will not let Babycham be nationalised and we shall not have to

when Mrs Bottomley announced on the BBC Radio 4 Today programme that she had received a "very gallant apology from the MP. Things have not always been so strained between Mr Evans and his leader. During one exchange in the Commons in 1992, Mr Major praised his Yorkshire terrier of the back benches for making

watch Bambi on televis waten barner on television every night." (1994) "Unlike them for opposite, we are on this side totally united behind our leader." (1995)
"Does my honourable Friend agree with Janice that if that lot got their hands on the of Conservative government

els cheque book 14 years ployed could find jobs." "People in Britain have appear like rats up a "his own distinctive points in his

own distinctive way". Mr Evans also earned brownie points from the Prime Minister by following the Brixton boy's lead and cashing in on his own working-class credentials. Elected to Parliament in 1987, Mr Evans embodies the Tory beer vote. Staunchly populist, his working-class boy-

become more and more lazy since the Second World War made-good attitude means that he despises foreigners, the unemployed, socialists and homosexuals. His caveman style is best displayed during Prime Minister's Question Time.

stop for a coloured fare. They are trouble. The Rastafarians and all that lot don't fit in."

'I don't trust Russians. The

more nuclear weapons the

Two-thirds of the unem-

In a 1995 session he asked: "Is it the Conservative Party who want to split up the UK, or is it that lot opposite, led by

He begins nearly all his quesuons by mentioning his wife Janice, his muse of common sense. and once asked Mr Major whether he was "aware that Janice takes quite a lot of interest in the House?"

But his relation: hip with the Prime Minister deteriorated last year when he openly backed, and became the main force behind John Redwood's. leadership attempt.

In his latest outburst he has received the backing of John Dean, the Conservative association chairman in Welwyn, and the executive of the 1992 comnittee of backbench MPs.

Mr Dean said: "David Evans is a colourful and outspoken MP but what is more important is his incredible ability to stand up for his constituents. I believe strongly that a MP should give their views and stand up for

what they believe in.

But in typically stubborn manner. 61-year-old Mr Evans has so far refused to apologise to his Labour opponent, Melanie Johnson, a school inspector and magistrate who has lived with her partner for 18 years.

Janet Anderson, Labour's spokeswoman on women's affairs, yesterday marched to Downing Street with a delegation of 13 female MPs demanding that Mr Evans be de-selected before the general election. She said his disgraceful comments clearly made him unsuitable to be a parliamentary candidate".



"Labour to press for peace drive at Peugeot

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

at Peugeol after the workforce voted overv

indefinite strike. Labour is concerned that an all-out stoppage at the car man-ufacturer so near the election would be used as political ammunition by the Conservatives. The vote at Peugeot comes amid tensions elsewhere in the motor industry which are also causing the party concern.

National union leaders meet today to decide their strategy at the French-owned company. Unions are expected to opt for a "breathing space" for negotiations, but they will couple the olive branch with a warning of indefinite industrial action to come in the absence of the deal.

In a turnout of about twothirds, Peugeot workers voted with a majority of 84 per cent to go on strike at protest a management attempts to chance

fusal to negotiate seriously over pay. There were 1,720 employ-Senior Labour Party figures are expected to put pressure on union leaders to sue for peace and the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union who voted to strike - with just 363 against - while 1,848 backet

action short of a stoppage with 243 voting "no". Union sources said yesterday that industrial relations at Peugeot were the worst in the motor industry. Unions last year protested over the management's plan to introduce French national holidays in place of the traditional British breaks. That issue is still a bone of con-

Tory Woodley, chief motor industry negotiator at the T&G, said the ballot result reflected "mounting frustration" with management. "The industrial relations climate has been soured by the company's unilateral attempt to chance working arrangements and its refusal to talk seriously over pay.

"It is now time the company

grievances. Negotiation is better than confrontation, but it takes two to negotiate." A Peugeot spokesman said

the vote was disappointing, adding: "We hope that sensible reflection on the part of all emand potentially far-reaching and damaging consequences. Labour expressed concern

privately recently over the threat of industrial action at Ford in protest at redundancies in the Halewood plant on Merseyside.

The party is also concerned now about unrest elsewhere in the industry. The T&G is currently testing the mood among the 600-strong workforce at Ford-lyeco in Slough where management has announced its intentions to close the plant.

Union officials said that industrial action was unlikely at the works, which is owned by Fiat and Ford, but workers were being balloted on whether they wanted to fight the shutdown or accept redundancy.

THIS DORCHESTER KITCHEN



·Ulster talks adjourned until after election sation that loyalists had tried to election and council elections

David McKittrick Ireland correspondent

By Anne Ridler

This little shabby tree, forgotten all summer,

Red parliament of butterflies ...

Colour is its whole theme.

And crouched in its corner through December frost,

The buds throw off their brown eninguishers, burst

Explosions of sunsets, archangels on a needle-point,

Into flame, and March sees a midsummer feast.

I cannot hold it with words vet summer life While winter howls out there behind the glass

Scentless, infertile, kept from moth and rain,

Like those vermilion rose-trees that bloom In picture-books. They never drooped or fuded,

But this has only a short month to shine,

And hours not spent in watching it are wasted.

"Azalea in the House" comes from Anne Ridler's Collected

Poems, just published by Carcanet Press (£9.95). Two of her

translations of opera libretti are currently being performed.

in English National Opera's production of Gluck's Orpheus

and Euridice (at the Coliscum) and Kent Opera's staging of

Monteverdi's Orfeo (at the Queen Elizabeth Hall).

And trees still clench their fists, must be 100 brief.

Now is brought indoors to keep its promise.
It speaks in a blaze, like a prophet returned from the wilderness:

The Northern Ireland peace process yesterday experienced a bang and a whimper - the quiet adjournment of political talks, together with the reali-

blow up a southern Irish town. That the talks have been in session since June without

due, adjournment was seen as inevitable. Their resumption is expected after the polls. In the meantime, the dangers reaching consideration of subof a political vacuum were emstantive political issues has phasised when it emerged that

meant their public credibility has ebbed. With the general a bomb left at a Sinn Fein office in the border town of Monaghan had not been a hoax, as DAILY POEM first reported. The bomb, planted on Sunday, contained 26lb of com-Azalea in the House mercial explosives, which could have brought down one or more buildings. In the event

only the detonator exploded. causing no significant damage.

It is believed to be the work of the Ulster Volunteer Force. Its significance is that it was the first bombing attack by the group since it declared a ceasefire in October 1994 and throws doubt on the continuing commitment of the loyalist paramilitary groups to political

rather than violent activity. The loyalists had previously feared such acts would lead to expulsion of their political spokesmen from the talks. But with the talks in abeyance this constraint may be lifted.

The immediate view in security circles was that the attack was probably intended as retaliation for the recent IRA killing of a soldier in south Armagh. As such, sources say, they believe it was a "one-off" rather than the beginning of a concerted campaign.





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FOR DENSEY STARS

the state

The lunacy of our asylum debate

You pays your money and you takes your choice. In Billericay - if Teresa Gorman is to be believed - asy-lum-seekers are mostly East European men who, after having come over here to watch Szzplit FC in the UEFA Cup, decided that they wished to stay on at taxpayers' expense. In Islington, however, according to Jeremy Corbyn, this group is almost entirely made up of torture victims who have had their fiances murdered in front of

Yesterday these two diametrically opposed versions of the same reality were laid out with some care. Teresa herself was splendidly attired in a pink-and-white check twin-set, which looked as though it had been run up from a very expensive National Trust tablecloth. She was cross that the courts had found in favour of a group of asylum-seekers. ruling that councils should provide them with basic ameni-

ties, now that government itself no longer did.

"Meals on Wheels have to take food to them!" she told horrified MPs. "They have to be given a packed lunch, in case they go out to do a bit of shopping during the day!"
Worse, they were given snacks as well. "Snacks!" repeated Ms Gorman for effect, "Snacks!" echoed scandalised members, many of whom can only dream of snacks. Furthermore, these folk needed "hygiene packs", including "toothbrush, toothpuste, soap, flannel and deodorants!"

The burden of providing all this personal freshness fell upon the poor old people of Westminster, many of whom live on small pensions in Peabody estates and ask nothing from the state, save to be let alone, "Why should elderly people, managing on their modest incomes, fork out for

these people who are simply parasites?" she concluded.

Jeremy's case was that we had an obligation to look after those who seek asylum in our country (although if the country is half as bad as Jeremy always says it is, it is amazing that anyone ever bothers). He was interrupted by the choleric Christopher Gill (C. Ludlow) who demanded to know what mandate Mr Corbyn had from the British people "to share their citizenship with foreigners."

As Mr Corbyn struggled with this piece of ahistorical xenophobia. I was momentarily distracted by the appearance of a steatopygous Sudanese tribeswoman in multicoloured djellaba and brass girdle, who sat silently at the end of the Tory benches. Closer examination showed it to be the Medway sex goddess, Peggy Fenner, come to show solidarity with the Third World. When she was sure that everyone in the Chamber had seen her, she departed again.

All this time David Shaw, the Dover MP - whose majority is tiny, but whose desire to hold on to his seat is overwhelming - had been twitching in preparation for his own intervention in the debate. At last his moment arrived. He did not, he began, "want to see people taking advantage of

Now, you'd have to get up pretty early in the morning to take advantage of Mr Shaw's compassion, as the following exchange with fellow Tory Tony Marlow indicates. Shaw had just explained to the House that even with brutal dictatorships there were limits to what could be done. "We cannot take the whole population of Iraq!" he stormed. Marlow intervened: Why don't they go to Jordan?" he asked: "Why do they have to travel a whole continent to get away?" Shaw concurred, easily. So the next time you see the whole population of Iraq at Dover ferry terminal, trying to enter the country, use your compassion and point out the sign saying "Jordan: 2,000 miles".



Party ties: Cook (left) and Maclennan sealing their pact Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Lib-Lab pledge to overhaul the constitution

Labour yesterday promised to offer voters a straight choice be-tween the current, first-past-thepost system and a system of profor a new millennium election.

Some senior party figures appear to have dropped their previous preference for the alternative system, which is not a proportional voting system. The alternative vote ensures

that all MPs are elected by a majority following the elimination of candidates who come bottom of the poll, and a redistribution of voters' second preferences. Liberal Democrats were yesterday delighted by the agree-ment between the parties,

which they regarded as a climbopponents of electoral reform. The decision was part of a practical package of constitutional change to "renew democracy", tied up between Labour and the Liberal Democrats yesterday. But the two parties warned that the prerequisite for reform was ending the Conserv-ative culture of the "one-party

state", and a change of gov-The agreement could also overcome the practical obstacles that blocked previous attempts said yesterday that the history of constitutional struggle was lit-

tered with failure.
In the Sixties," he said, "a Labour government with a huge majority failed to reform the House of Lords. In the Seventies, plans for devolution came to nought. Our two parties have to do better."

Robin Cook, shadow Foreign Secretary and the man who led the Labour negotiating team, said: "Both parties have gained from reaching agreement on a comprehensive programme of reform which offers each of us a better prospect of achieving the objectives of our policies on the constitution."

The areas of agreement covered not only devolution, electoral reform, and the removal of the right of hereditary peers to sit and speak in the House of Lords, but also ta code of human rights, freedom of information, the independence of the national statistical service, greater scrutiny and accountability for quangos, statutory force for the civil service code, and a modernisation pro-

gramme for the Commons. While the Liberal Democrats disagreed with Labour's proposal to hold two referenda on Scottish devolution, one on the

at reform. Bob Maclennan, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, another on its powers to vary taxes, yesterday's agreement said they "would not seek to frustrate or delay referendum

legislation". Yesterday's statement said that once the initial referendum had been carried, "both parties would support legislation to establish the Scottish parliament within the first session of Parliament after the general elec-tion" - by the summer of 1998.

Both a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly would be ejected on an additional member system; the proportional voting system which retains constituency seats, but gives an additional proportion of places to the "best losers" among de-feated candidates. That system will be one of the options for an electoral commission that would be given a year in which to propose a referendum choice between the existing first-past-the-post system and "one spe-cific proportional alternative" that would "command broad consensus among proponents of

proportional representation."

Mr Cook said he anticipated that the referendum, and any subsequent legislation could take place "in good time" for PR to be introduced for the following general election.

Criticised councils turn over a new leaf

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

Councils criticised for their poor record in providing services have improved remarkably over the past year, according to the Audit Commission's annual local-authority performance

The figures suggest that nothing works better in improving a council's performance than local publicity resulting from finishing bestom of the commission's published annual league tables. The commission, the Gov-

ernment's spending watchdog. says, for example, that the 15 authorities which took longest to relet empty council homes when the commission first produced performance figures three years ago, have improved their performance by 30 per cent and now take an average of 9.6 weeks to relet homes.

rather than 13.5 weeks. Similarly, the worst authorities collected only 81 per cent of the council tax due to them and now the average for the had performers is 86 per cent. A spokesman for the commission

said: "Nobody wants to be at the bottom."

The commission highlights the fact that while overall performance is improving, there are still very large differences in performance between similar authorities. While many manage to complete all or nearly all their land searches, for people buying houses in the local area, within 10 working days, some barely manage to complete any. Newham in East London does only 14 per cent in the allotted time, while neighbouring Walthum Forest manages 98.7 per

Earl Howe, the Under-Secre-

tary of State for Defence, made

a personal statement to the

House of Lords vesterday warn-

ing that Parliament may have

cent. And prices vary widely, with Milton Keynes charging £113.50 for the service compared with £49 charged by another Buckinghamshire au-

thority, Aylesbury Vale. Similarly, while some authorities managed to assess more than 90 per cent of children in their area with special educational needs within the target time of 18 weeks - such as Newcastle, Southwark and Norfolk - others, like Manchester, Salford and Havering, did not as-sess any children within the al-

lowed a report in vesterday's In-

carcasses and found that the an-

is possible to discern successful authorities within each group. The tables highlight Liverpool and Manchester as authorities not giving value for money while Birmingham, Knowlsley and Croydon all do well.

With so few councils now controlled by the Tories, comparisons of the parties' performance are difficult. However. Labour seized on the relatively poor performance of Westminster, one of the Tories' flag-ship councils, pointing out that

Peers misled over animal deaths

No authority emerges as the it spends £56.48 per head on best or worst in Britain, but it refuse collection and disposal, compared with neighbouring Labour Camden's £22.46, and that Westminster has the highest benefits administration cost in the country of £266 per claimant per year. Labour rather overstretched

itself, however, when it claimed that Labour-controlled Thurrock in Essex had the best record for collecting council tax - 102 per cent of the amount due. ☐ The Local Performance Indicators, 1995/6, volume 1 and 2; £15 each, Audit Commission.

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been misled over the mysteriimals died of natural causes. ous deaths of large numbers of The scientists, at Edinburgh's animals in the Gulf War. Centre for Tropical Veterinary

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Medicine, revealed they had no Gulf War, were incorrect. I imrecord of the work being done. amounted to an apology, foltigation. Troops who served in the denendent over experiments by Gulf believe the animals may have been killed by pesticides British scientists, who the minor as a result of the use of chemister claimed had examined the

ical or biological weapons. The Countess of Mar, a crossbench peer, had asked the minister last July whether there was any evidence that the dead animals had been exposed to

nerve gas. Earl Howe said in reply: "Samples from dead animals were sent back to the Edinburgh Veterinary School and Tropical Medicine Centre [sic] and all were found to have died of natural causes or such things as eating vehicle batteries."

Yesterday the minister told the House that the Ministry of Defence now doubted that this was true and that an investigation was under way to establish the facts. He said: "On Thursday last week I was telephoned in the House by a journalist who told me that his inquiries had led him to believe that my written answers to the noble Countess, Lady Mar on 4th June and 5th July last year, about the deaths of animals during the

mediately set in hand an inves-

"Early yesterday evening I received departmental advice that there is now considerable doubt over the accuracy of my answers. My Lords, this is a serious matter about which I felt it right to inform the House at the earliest opportunity."

The admission follows an apology in October by Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, that he misled Parliament over the use of organophosphate pesticides in the Gulf. Lady Mar said: "How many more things are we being misled on? I remain absolutely convinced that chemical weapons were used on both

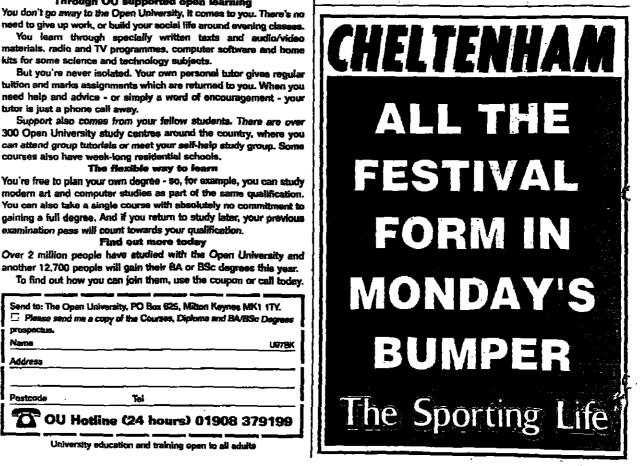
This is how

speaking the

Without re

She said troops who serve in the Gulf had seen dead but

unmarked animals lying on their sides as if they were asker Lady Mar said that Care Howe, who was clearly furious with his advisers, had personally apologised to her. She has been granted a meeting with the minister's advisers this afternoon at which she hopes to be given further information.



حكذا من الأصل

leaf

Ferries all at sea over new safety rules

إ هكذا من الأصل

Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

British ferries may be scrapped, forced to cut the number of passengers they can carry or need major work to meet tough new safety standards issued next month by the Government.

Officials from the Marine Safety Agency, which certifies ships, have completed a review of all ferries sailing from the UK and have identified those craft most in need of work to meet the Government's targets.

The list contains vessels used by P&O. Stena and Sea France. Safety inspectors will not publish the full timetable of workrequired by the Government until 1 April.

The move comes exactly 10 years after the Herald of Free Enterprise, a roll-on roll-off (ro-10) ferry owned by P&O, capsized as it left the Belgian port of Zeebrugge on the way to Dover, killing 194 men, women and children The Herald of Free Enterprise sank in a storm off the Coast of West Africa while being towed to Thailand in the early 1990s.

The new safety measures go further than the existing 1990 world survivability standards. They will require UK-operating ro-ro ferries to be able to cope with 50 cms of water entering the car deck and stay affoat if holed beneath the waterline. The improvements will cost ferry firms millions of pounds.

Many older vessels could meet the higher standards by attaching "buoyancy blisters" to their hulls or erecting bulkheads on their car decks. The merger between the largest ferry operators, P&O and Stena, which has yet to be cleared by the Government, would also allow older ships to be retired from passenger service and save

them from an expensive refit. Other ships can delay their time in dry dock by reducing the numbers they carry The Pride of Cherbourg, owned by P&O, is



In the dock: P&O's Pride of Suffolk loading at Felixstowe. Under the new safety regulations, all ro-ro ferries must be modified by spring 1998

ropean Ferries said: "We will do whatever is necessary to comhauled this Autumn include Sea France's Matisse and P&O's The CA added that industry Pride of Hampshire. Next year

ply with the new regulations." standards require a typical Passenger groups said more could be done sooner. The cross-Channel ferry to be evac-Consumers' Association called uated within 30 minutes. Yet it

teers to be evacuated in a government test in Dover. The Herald Families Associ-

ation, which campaigned to raise shipping safety standards. is disbanding in the light of the new regulations. "Time does not ourselves," said the association's deputy chairman, Peter Spooner, whose son was killed in the disaster.

heal the pain but we have felt that by doing something we have helped ease things for

A spokesman for P&O Eu Outsumers Association canculated within 30 numbers for its for the Government to speed up took 65 minutes for 842 volunnumber of passengers - and put upgraded. off its upgrade until 2001. Conservationists to challenge £17m Cairngorms railway plan pany designed a totally

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

Scottish Natural Heritage, the Government's nature adviser, was riding out a storm of protest yesterday after withdrawing its objection to a funicular railway up Cairn Gorm. The fate of the £17m project could now depend

on Brussels and the National Lottery:

pencilled in to be overhauled

this autumn. The company could avoid this by increasing

the cargo space and halving the

Conservationists are preparing a challenge through Europe and the courts in order to safeguard the sub-arctic mountain environment, home to rare birds such as the dotterel and snow bunting. "SNH has failed monumen-

tally in its duty to protect the Scottish countryside," said Bill Wright, of the Cairngorms Campaign which may seek judicial review of the quango's behaviour over the railway.

would see some newer ships -

like P&O's Pride of Suffolk -

Not surprisingly, the Chairlift Company was delighted with the decision, describing it as "an important milestone" in

Aviemore ski area. Hamish land. and Highland Council Swan, the company's chairman, said it was "a breakthrough for Highland tourism and the local community". An extra 50 jobs have been predicted.

The way is now clear for a formal agreement between SNH. the company, Highland and Is-

setting legal safeguards for nature protection. Once that is signed, the Chairlift Company will set about raising the capi-

The 2km railway would run on 93 concrete pillars from the mountainside car park almost

highest mountains. It would replace antiquated chairlifts used by skiers and also provide a summer service to a summit visitor centre.

To meet SNH's objection to trippers spilling out on to the fragile mountain top, the com-

enclosed system. Funicular passengers will not be allowed outside when they reach the visitor centre.

This bizarre arrangement was being trumpeted by SNH as likely to lead to less visitor pressure than the current "unmanaged chairlift access". | practices, then why not Britain?"

Alert on residues in meat

Annabel Ferriman

Just when you thought it was safe to start eating meat again, a report published vesterday warms of another hazard - antibiotic residues in British pork

and turkey.

Overuse of antibiotics in the rearing of livestock could ultimately mean there is no effective treatment for humans suffering from related infec-tions, Which? magazine warns, as bacteria develop a resistance to familiar drugs.

Tests carried out by the Consumers' Association, and similar organisations in 15 countries, have revealed traces of antibiotics in European pork, turkey, veal and chicken.

The study reveals that Britain had the largest proportion of turkeys affected (7 per cent) and the third largest proportion of pork (4 per cent), after the Republic of Ireland (17 per cent cent) and Greece (8 per cent). No yeal or beef from Britain was tested and none of its chicken samples was affected, however.

Farmers use antibiotics both to treat infection and to promote growth in animals, but their use as growth promoters has been restricted. In practice, however, closely related drugs

are used in this way.

The presence of antibiotic residues in food not only in-creases the likelihood of resistance, but can also affect people who are allergic to antibiotics, and very high doses of one type of sulphonamide has been linked to thyroid cancer. Sue Davies, the Consumers'

Association's acting principal researcher, said: "Antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria are becoming more common. In 1995 over 87 per cent of one particular strain of salmonella was resistant to five common antibiotics. This is serious [because] the number of people who die from it is around ten times higher than for other types of salmonella. The options for treatment are now few."

Tim Lobstein, of the Food Commission in London, said: "If Sweden, Denmark and Germany's consumers, with support from the veterinary profession. are prepared to press for better







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THE PENSIONS REVOLUTION

Lilley the radical guesses 40 years ahead

Mic Cicutti Personal Finance Editor

The Government's proposals to privatise the basic state pension and scrap the carnings-related scheme, announced vesterday. is one of the most audacious plans for almost 20 years.

Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, described his plans as "enabling pensioners to share in future economic growth ... and ultimately, to relieve taxpayers of

their biggest burden.
Mr Lilley's department claimed the Basic Pension Plus plans, which involve paying young people £9 per week towards a personal pension from the moment they start work, will eventually save up to £40bn from the public spending bill by 2040. Department of Social Security officials argued that the cost of paying the basic state pension, plus income support to those on the poverty line, costs about £42bn a year at present. This figure is rising fast as more people reach retirement age and then go on to live longer. By implementing this

scheme, the total state pensions bill would be reduced to about £10bn in 40 years' time or so.

But Labour's pensions spokesman, John Denham, yesterday cast doubts on the Government's figures. He seized on DSS figures showing the cost of paying £9 weekly to young peoole's pensions would rise by 1160m each year, spiralling to £7bn a year in about 40 years' time, to claim that existing taxpayers would be forced to foot

Minister claims scheme will save taxpavers billions and help the old

are the latest stage in a long-runpensions. The retreat from a generously-funded scheme, which began barely a year after the Tories took office in 1979, has continued unabated for more than 15 years. The most significant initial

The Government's proposals linking Serps to inflation and not earnings once it is paid. A furning retrenchment over state ther measure has involved also pegging the upper income limstate it, beyond which Serps is not payable, to inflation. In effect, the maximum that can be counted towards an earnings-re-£23,600 - will drop relative to step taken by the Conservatives people's incomes.

Peter Tompkins, actuary at

the accountancy firm Price Wa-

terhouse, said someone on av-

erage earnings of £16,500 could

expect £3.500 a year in addition

to their state pension if Serps

were fully linked to earnings. By 2040 this will drop to £1,400. Although initial reports fo-

cused on the Government's

abolition of Serps and its re-

placement with a 5 per cent Na-

tional Insurance rebate, once

again payable into a personal

pension, this has been virtual-

About 15 million people are

now opted out of Serps, with just

6 million, mostly lower-paid

workers, still contributing to the

accomplished already.

The retreat from a generously funded state scheme has continued unabated for more than 15 years

in 1980 involved raining the basic pension only in line with inflation and not earnings. Because pays generally rises faster than inflation, this has meant the value of a basic state pension dropping from about 20 per cent of average earnings in 1979 to about 15 per cent today. This is predicted to fall to 10 per cent in 25 years' time.

The second step taken by the Government has involved the whittling away of Serps, the state-earnings-related system. When it was first introduced by Barbara Castle in 1978, at the end of the last Labour government. Serps was intended to add a further 25 per cent of average

vages at retirement. This too has been gradually

new system than through the existing one.

Mr Lilley argued yesterday

that the rising costs of meeting the £9 weekly commitment to young people would be funded by a combination of two factors. The first is that, unlike now, pay-ments into a personal pension will be taxed. Whereas at present, for every £100 of contributions the Revenue pays £24 for basic taxpayers (£40 for those on the marginal rate), this will not happen in future.

The Government claims that oung people will benefit from not having their pension taxed when its is finally paid. However. most governments' tax promises have tended to be at variance with the facts just a year or two after being made, never mind 40

years time.

Mr Lilley also hopes that very minor economic growth ahead of existing targets would meet the remaining cost. Again, this depends on whether such growth can be maintained for 40 years.

A DSS spokesman said last night: "The rising costs are nothing to be scared of. We have already shown that we are capable of cutting the cost of pension provision, by our previous reforms of Serps and by the equalisation of state pension ages at 65. Assuming normal nomic growth, we can afford

the changes."
On the cost front, there is the additional question of how The real debate, such as much the new personal pensions



Labour splits over Serps scheme Fran Abrams

Political Correspondent There is disagreement in the Labour ranks over whether the State Earnings Related Pension

Scheme should be scrapped or not. Party policy commits a Labour government to keeping the scheme but the Labour chairman of the Social Securitv Select Committee, Frank Field, believes it should go. Both sides in the argument agree that Serps has been run

down over the years of Conservative government and that it no longer provides good value for money for most people. However, the party's social security spokeswoman. Harriet

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Harman: Serps should stay

Harman, argues that it should be kept for anyone who wants

to remain in it. Mr Field believes

it should be replaced with com-

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A Labour government would

be committed to keeping the same basic pension structure as exists at present, but, like the Conservatives, it would encourage more people to take up private schemes to top up their asic state pension. The Liberal Democrats, meanwhile, believe that Serps could be phased out but only after other safeguards have been put in place.

However, there is acknowledgement among Labour politicians that private pensions do not provide adequate returns

pulsory personal-insurance a quarter of their savings through administration charges. Complex rules which exacerbate this problem should be simplified, they suggest.

Labour has promised to work with pension providers and to use competition between them in order to provide better pensions and to ensure proper security. In addition, those on low earnings would be entitled to a basic state pension linked to inflation under a Labour government, as they have been under the Conservatives.

Labour believes that the Conservatives' "apocalyptic" for all investors. They say that warnings about the growing someone earning between numbers of pensioners in this £10,000 and £12,000 would lose country are overstated. Al-

though there will be a sharp increase between 2030 and 2040, it says, the number of people retiring in the next 20 years will be lower than in the past 20.

Under a Labour government new types of pension schemes could be encouraged, including programmes run by groups of employers or by a number of firms in the same industry. There could also be local schemes, possibly promoted by chambers of commerce.

Personal pensions under Labour could be linked to the party's plans for individual sav-ings accounts. Pension companies would be encouraged to offer savings and life assurance to their members at com-

Under the Liberal Democrats, the basic state pension would remain, and occupational and private pensions should exist to add to the safety net the state provides. All workers would be covered by it, order to provide a basic state and there would be measures to protect lower-paid employees. Then Serps could be phased

out, with earnings-related state pensions transferred over time to the private sector. However, the basic state pension would remain in state hands.

Tories' vision: £175 a week and big savings

The state could save £40bn per year by 2040 under the Conaccording to Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security.

However, anyone over 20 today is unlikely to be affected by the new arrangements. Legislation would be passed towards the end of the next Parliament and phased in over the following 40 years.

Under the Basic Pension Plus programme, everyone would have to choose a personal pension plan from an approved company. They would then receive a National Insurance rebate of £9 per week, which would be paid into the fund in pension, regardless of how much they earned.

The basic pension would remain at current levels and be topped up to take account of inflation. If a person's fund was not sufficient to pay the basic pension, the Government



Lilley: Seeking big savings

would guarantee to top it up. In addition, employees would receive an additional National Insurance rebate of 5 per cent of their earnings to fund a separate, income-related pension.

an employee on average wages could build up a fund worth £130,000 over a working lifetime, and that this would be enough for a pension of £175-

economic growth by one-twentieth of I per cent per annum, the scheme would be self-financing, ministers said yes-

terday.

The scheme is designed to move Britain from the pay-asyou-go scheme, under which today's workers' contributions pay the pensions of those who have already retired, to one in which everyone builds up their own personal retirement fund. Over a generation, the amount held in private schemes would in-

However, Labour claims the Government will not save any money until its first Basic Pension Plus generation retires in around 2040. Labour said last night that the scheme would cost £2.4bn in its first five years, with workers having to pay The Government believes twice - once to fund their own schemes and once to fund those who had already retired.

The Government plans a Green Paper on which pensions companies and other interested parties would be consulted.

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per week, tax free. Why the Right is going for the big idea

Nic Cicutti

Why is the Government reforming the state pension system?

For several years now, there has been a growing argument over the so-called "demographic timebomb". This is the term used to describe forecasts that the UK population is ageing

The number of people of pensionable age is rising from 8.9 million in 1991 to an anticipated 13.5 million by 2030, according to research. At the same time, there will he a falling proportion of people in work to support

But why should my pension be affected?

Because the existing state pension scheme is pased on a pay-as-you-go system. whereby we pay for those who are already retired. In turn, we hope our pensions will be met by future National Insurance contributions. But if less people are in work, it means it costs more to fund pensions or, the Government argues, they have to be cut

So what is the Government doing?

In practice, the real value of state pensions has been falling for more than 15 years. This has mainly been achieved by linking benefits to inflation rather than

earnings, which rise faster. Much of these changes have taken place under the direction of Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social

What is the latest change?

Mr Lilley is proposing that, if the Conservatives are elected again, the Government should radically alter the state pension. He wants to abolish Serps, the state earningsrelated element, and pay 5 per cent of national insurance into people's personal pensions instead. This is a continuation of what he has aiready been doing. He also wants to scrap the basic state pension, replacing it with a guaranteed £9 a. week - again, into a personal pension. He hopes to cut the state's pension bill by £40bn by 2040, while guaranteeing the same inflation-adjusted levels of benefits as today.

Are there any problems with

There could be. The DSS admits that the cost will rise by £160m a year, reaching £7bn by 2040. It hopes the extra costs will be paid by performance. But this is not guaranteed. There are also questions about whether personal pensions are cheaper to administer than the state system. One thing is certain, this is likely to prove a multi-billion pound bonanza for personal pension

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PM challenged to live on pensioner's monthly income

Elizabeth Raybone is disgusted with the Prime Minister. She wants to challenge John Major to "come and live with me for a month. Leave your money and come and live on mine and then see how you manage. See how

Miss Raybone is 62, partially sighted and lives in a "two-up two-down house in Gwent, South Wales She receives income support and a disability allowance which comes to £78 a week. Everything has to be accounted for, but she says that her cat, Beauty, is her one luxury.

She budgets £59 for her heating, mortgage, electricity, tele-phone bills, newspapers, television licence and insurance. The remaining £19 goes on could lose my house as easy as food – mainly pulses and vegerables as they are cheap and fill—heating, well they can't switch ing. That way she can just about manage, if she spends time in the market shopping around for the best food bargains.

"I rarely eat meat - it is far too expensive. I might eat it once a formight, if I'm very to work but spent most of her hucky." But there are sometimes life caring for her parents: "It unforeseen problems which can was very hard as practically all

Keeping body and my life they were seriously ill and there were no facilities for Soul together is a carers. There was nothing at all.
"We just weren't able to save. daily struggle for Elizabeth Raybone

throw her budget out. "It's a question of trying to leave something for a month or two. hope that they don't push me and try to make it up by cutting

failed to realise what sort of life many old people lead and says

that yesterday's announcements

probably amounts to no more

penny - and if milk goes up a

penny then you have to find that

penny from somewhere else.

They wouldn't be able to cope."

than "election promises".

down on food or heating."
Heating you can save by wrapping yourself up in a blan-ket on a chair or just going to bed of course.

But she is terrified of running into debt. "Tve seen too many people fall into debt and they just can't get out. If I fell behind in my mortgage payments I you off in the winter, but come 1 March and they I do it. At the moment I desperately need new carpets and curtains - but it is not something I can afford." Miss Raybone did not go out

If you had saved all your life then maybe you would be able to cope, but with two seriously ill parents it just wasn't possible."

She feels that politicians have felled to applied when the fell to applied when the felled to applied the applied to applied the felled to applied the felled to applied the felled the "If they would just put up the pension £10 or £15 it would make a difference," she said. "But when you're on £700 a week you don't know what it is like on £70. You're counting each

Tight budget: Elizabeth Raybone from Gwent, South Wales, with her cat, Beauty, which she

Retiring type just manages to make ends meet

At first Rachel Notley's late husband did not want her to go to work - "It just wasn't done then". Now she is grateful that she managed to persuade him to let her, for otherwise she does not know how she would survive on just a state pension.

on just a state pension.

Married in 1934, it was not until the 1960s that she went out to work for Age Concern after bringing up her children and caring for her in-laws.

She took out an occupational pension at the time because it as a state pension. I would be a state properly on a state pension, it is said.

"it seemed like a sensible idea". have my own pension I would Now she is supremely thankful be on housing benefit and

£160 a week, compared with the normal state pension of £61.15. and I sold the house. Her occupational pension gives her around £65 a week after tax; her state pension is £82, high-er than normal, because her husband worked until thea ge of 68, as she did] and she also coat, unless you go to Oxfam gets a small amount from her you can't buy a decent one for savings bond and attendance allowance. She also has money in a building society and is in the process of purchasing the freehold on her flat.

hold on her flat.

Her outgoings include, council tax of £41 a month, £8 a month for gas "although I try not to put it on so much", the electricity [£12] and her car [£20], which she needs to get around because of her disability following a hip operation. around because of her disability following a hip operation: the on just their pension. You feel allowance of couldn't really managed. fer antenoance anowance or countil treatly manage on 201 feet allows her to employ some per week and I know people do one to come in and do things but it is a pretty rotten life; parlike the cleaning, which she can ticularly after paying into the not manage. "I realise that al—system all your life."

.. While a works pension makes Rachel Notley extremely thankful

though I have to make do, I am not as badly off as I could be. I

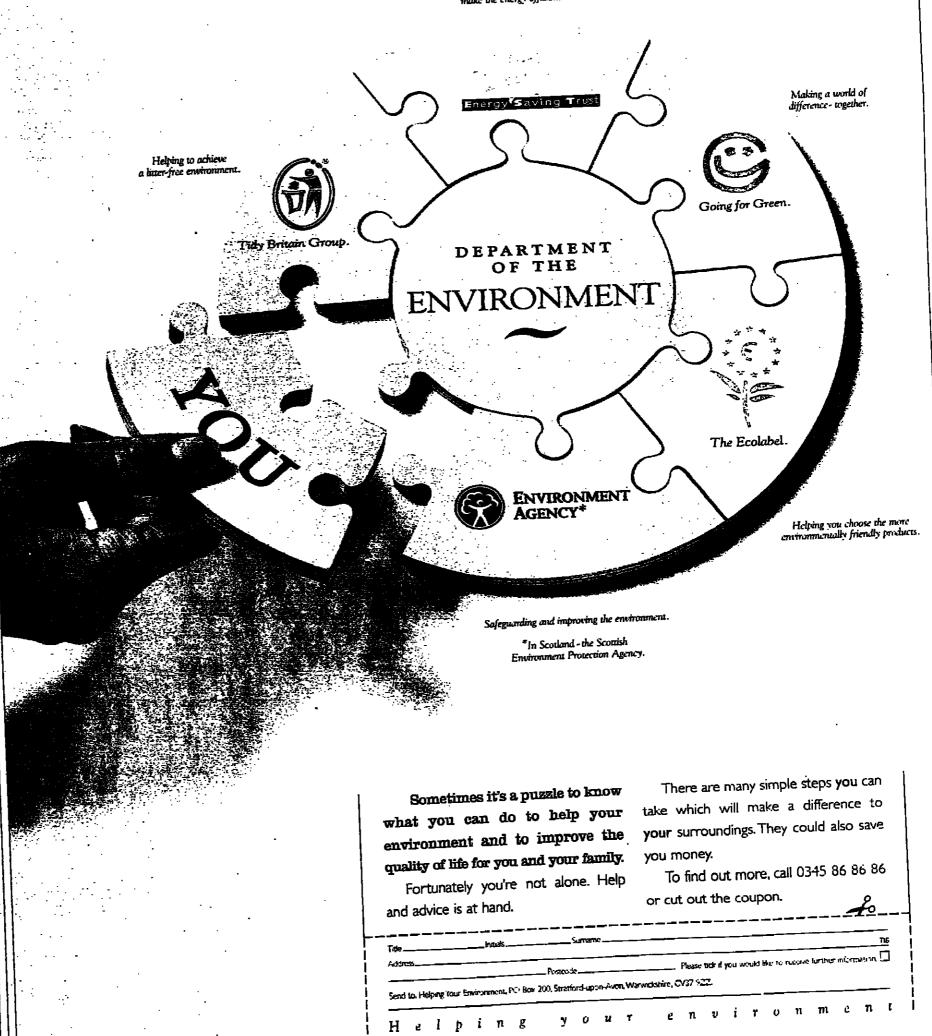
everything. I'm lucky as well be-, 83, lives on £155 cause I have some small savings from when my husba

"You do have to think 'Gosh, that's a bit expensive,' if you're looking at a new pair of shoes. Even on my income, if you want something like a new winter under £100. Sometimes I go shopping and I see people with stuff in their trolley which comes to more than my week-

She thinks politicians have not thought the pensions system through: "I can't see what the Government are going to do. There are a lot more older accouldn't really manage on £61 per week and I know people do but it is a pretty rotten life, par-

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international

Protesters fear Berisha's army is out for blood

Emma Daly in Tirana

A major security operation. including soldiers equipped with tanks and armoured personnel carriers, was under way throughout southern Albania vesterday, but armed civilians

Protesters in the southern port of Saranda fired assault ri-fles and a commandeered tank at jets flying overhead. Journalists in Saranda saw

appeared to come out ahead in

Chinese-made MiG-15 warplanes drop a bomb next to two houses in the village of Delvina. and the Council of Europe is to houses in the village of Delvina. near Saranda, and saw smoke from two more bombs. About 400 families, most belonging to Albania's ethnic Greek minority, live in the town, It was not clear if anyone was burt.

The Defence Ministry denied there had been any order to fire against civilians. But on Tuesday, the crew of an Albanian military jet who landed in Italy seeking political asylum said they had been given orders to bomb civilian targets near the southern town of Gjirokaster. 123 miles south of Tirana.

About 400 hooded and armed protesters are guarding Saranda, which is under the control of the insurgents. They have set up road blocks on the main road into the city. Trucks and cars were seen carrying weapons and explosives into the town, most of it looted from army warehouses in the region.

In the town of Stiari, four The West launched diplomatic

moves to find a political solution to the crisis, ruling out military intervention. The Dutch Foreign Minister will travel to Tirana tomorrow to seek talks between the government and opposition,

Europe and the US condemned President Berisha, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, called him "dictatorial".

men were reported injured in a battle with army troops. The fight apparently broke out when four truckloads of troops opened fire on a roadblock. Vlora, the centre of anti-government protests, has yet to come under attack according to residents contacted by tele-

phone. They said most civilians

were staying indoors fearful of

the military holding the main

deat's will. Among the soldiers are many conscripts who invested their meagre wages in the pyramid schemes whose collapse sparked the unrest in January. The police are another matter. Most come from the north,

home of Mr Berisha, and are loyal to him. The regular police have been put under command of the Shik, the secret police. Its members are much in evidence around Tirana in buildings frequented by opposition

Gunmen are in position on

rooftops in the town, they said. The defenders of Vlora are

believed to be well organised

and have shored up positions

President Sali Berisha will aim

at a bloody victory rather than political compromise in Vlora

and Saranda. But Western

diplomats say the army is poor-

ly equipped and cannot be relied on to enforce the Presi-

Many Albanians fear that

outside the town.

and the media. The capital is quiet. However, the calm imposed by the state of emergency, which includes a night-time curlew and press censorship, has not calmed the fears of those who by the government.



Tribal tension splits open Albania

Andrew Gumbel

The conflict pitting the Albanian government against angry armed rebels in the south has split the country in two along a notorious historical and cultural fault line, raising the very real possibility of civil war or even partition in the event of a pro-

Albania has traditionally been divided into two tribal groups: the Ghegs who live in the north and spread into Kosovo and western Macedonia, and the Tosqs from the south. Their differences are primarily linguistic: the Ghegs speak-ing a rougher, less sophisticated variety of Albanian, but they are

ucation, living habits and religious practice. The differences have seethed beneath the surface of Alban-

ian politics since the country won independence from the Ottoman empire in 1912. They go a long way to explain why En-ver Hoxha, the country's postwar Stalinist dictator, became so paranoid about Albania's sovereignty and the risk of subversion from abroad. Now they weigh heavily on President Sali

The north-south dividing line s generally considered to be the river Shkumbin, which springs from Lake Ohrid on the border with southern Macedonia and flows in a straight line across the country before draining into the Adriatic half way between the country's two main ports, Dur-res to the north and Vlora to the south. This is also the frontline

Tirana, the Albanian capital. belongs geographically in the north but by temperament is very much a part of the south outside world and suspicious of the secretive, essentially mafioso world of extended families and blood feuds that still oper-

ates in the north.

larly the Socialists, have retained their heartland in the south - for cultural as well as political reasons - and strongly resent the influx of "northern savages" into the country's pow-

Berisha, a typical Gheg born in a northern village, as he strug-gles to assert his authority on the half of the country with which he has little cultural connection.

of the present conflict.

One of the reasons Mr Berisha was successful in portraying himself as a staunch anti-Communist is because he came from the opposite end of the country from Hoxha, who was born in Gjirokaster on the Greek border. Once installed as president in 1992, Mr Berisha brought thousands of villagers down from the north to take up

jobs in ministries and in the security forces, especially the police and the Shik secret police.

Opposition parties, particu-



er structure. Whenever demonstrations have been violently broken up by police the anonymous assailants are invariably described as talking with thick northern accents.

Organised crime in Albania is also divided on tribal lines. Intelligence experts believe the Ghegs are involved in trafficking drugs and contraband cigarettes, using their secret networks - relying at least in part on Gheg state officials - to bring merchandise across the through ports towards Italy. The Gheg world operates, like Cosa Nostra in Sicily in its heyday, under a strict shroud of silence called Bessa Endital and has its own code of classically mafioso behaviour called the Canun of Lek Dukagjeni, based on family honour and legitimate revenge through bloodshed. One of the reasons international crime fighters have found it hard to crack the Ghegs' activities is

because nothing ever leaks out. The Tosqs' main criminal activities, meanwhile, are based in Vlora and involve the highly lucrative smuggling of arms and illegal immigrants across the Adriatic to Italy. The fact that the present rebellion began in Vlora is no coincidence: the townspeople have the weapons behind them, as well as a mafia power structure virulently opposed to Mr Berisha's Ghegdominated governing order.

The Gheg-Tosq rivalry is far more than an academic exercise in cultural differences; it has at different times threatened Albania's very existence. During the Second World War, the Greek army occupied most of Tosq Albania, and have at various stages had ambitions to annex it. In 1946, the US Congress made a notorious proposal, never followed through, to partition the country between Greece and Yugoslavia - again along the old fault line.

One reason Hoxha banned religion in 1967 was because of fears the Roman Catholic-influenced north could split from the mainly Muslim south. Religion has been drummed out of Albanians, but the cultural gulf has been widening ever-since Communism was overmountains from Kosovo and out thrown in 1990-91.





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مكذا من الأصل

There's a great deal going on

Swiss to give £3bn to victims of Nazis

Switzerland crumbled under the weight of international pressure yesterday and announced plans to endow a £3bn foundation for victims of Nazi

In a move which stunned and delighted critics, President Arnold Koller said the country should set up the fund "to do some good to those who endured unspeakable sufferings 50 years ago". Only two months ago, the then Swiss president, Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, condemned location in the condemned demned Jewish lobbying as "blackmail" and said claims for a compensation fund would be an "admission of guilt".



← Switzerland should do some good for those who endured unspeakable sufferings 50 years ago 🤊

Bui wini ibi mai owe businesses would be boycotted unless the question of "lost" Jewish bank accounts and war-time gold dealing was addressed, politicians and diplomats have been forced to meet

the growing crisis head-on. President Koller told a special session of parliament that the government intended to use a new, more realistic valuation of Swiss gold holdings as to accept criticism.
the basis for the fund. Rolf Bloch, presi

Swiss Foundation for Solidarity could enjoy an income of up to several hundred million pounds a year.

The fund would "reinforce Switzerland's humanitarian tradition and prove our gratitude: for having been spared during two world wars," he said.

It would help not only Holocaust survivors but "victims of poverty and catastrophes, of genocide and other severe breaches of human rights".

The Swiss National Bank said gold would be sold over 10 years to fund the scheme, while avoiding hitting the world gold market. The gold price never-theless dropped about \$4 (£2.50) an ounce to \$354 (£221).

Switzerland has been under growing pressure since newly released documents indicated it had not always helped Nazi victims and their families trace money placed in Switzerland before the Second World War. It also faced criticism for using its neutrality in the conflict to deal tons of Nazi gold.

Mr Koller admitted that the Swiss government initially un-derestimated the criticism and had failed to address it with "sufficient sensitivity"

Now, the new fund, to be established by next year to mark the 150th anniversary of the modern Swiss constitution, will supplement a humanitarian fund already endowed with £43m by leading Swiss banks. The Swiss National Bank said yesterday that it would match the other banks' donation.

The British Labour MP Greville Janner, chair of the Holocaust Educational Trust, said he was delighted.

He described the move as an "honourable pre-emptive strike," because Switzerland knew it would face severe criticism from its own historical inquiry and from an American inquiry on Swiss financial dealings by Amhassador Eizenstat which reports later this month.

"They don't want to be the pariahs of Europe, therefore they have proposed to do what is right and set up this fund. "It's very pleasant. It's an-

other melting of the glacier."
An Israeli government spokesman Avraham Burg said: "I think it is a very important and significant step in the right direction. It is not the end of the

Peter Feldmajer, leader of the Jewish community in Hungary, aside £15m for Holocaust survivors, said the offer was "approximately what had been taken from European Jewry". However, the Swiss proposal requires parliamentary ap-

proval and will face opposition. One right-winger, Christoph Blocher, said the government had "lost its head". Many older Swiss have found it difficult

Communities, said he was delighted but the "huge amount" of money would upset some people. We have to convince the Swiss people it is the right thing to do".

Argentina has become the latest country to act on the question of Nazi gold. President Carlos Menem has ordered his central bank archives to be opened to investigate whether Nazi funds were deposited. Leading article, page 15

ا مددا من الأصل

Last stand: Police firing water cannons at thousands of protesters in Dannenberg to clear a road for the shipment of nuclear-waste containers

Nuclear protesters bow to the inevitable

lmre Karacs

Four youths dangling from trees held up 30,000 German troops and policemen in Robocop body armour for several hours yesterday, before ultimately succumbing. The Battle of Gorleben ended in triumph for the state when six forries towing the 100-tonne nuclear containers reached the security of the medium term waste disposal site yesterday afternoon.

It was a Pyrrhic victory, in which 150 demonstrators were injured, the region's famed heath was enveloped in the acrid fume of burning tyres, and the authorities bickered about who should pick up the 100m mark bill. The government of Lower Saxony hinted this might have been the last trip to its

cursed nuclear cemetery. The operation began at 5am sharp. At Dannenberg station, where the containers had been loaded on to reinforced trailers, the water cannons opened fire, dousing some 4,000 demonstrators sitting on the road. Then armoured bulldozers charged into the crowd. Five policemen were injured in the ensuing scuffles.

The demonstrators retreated It was still early morning, and the road to Gorleben seemed to be wide open. But protesters were about to fight back.

In the dead of night, the two oak trees at the entrance of the road had been turned into a victory arch. linked by a huge banner and a web of mountaineering ropes. Along them four environmentalists were sliding to and fro. clutching the ropes with one hand and their mobile phones with the other.

That was at 9am, but the troops had come prepared for any confrontation. They had APCs, water cannons. a fleet of helicopters. What they lacked was a long ladder.

Reinforcements were sent for, Eight helicopter gun ships flew past in formation, crack troops marched below,

When that did not work, the state called in its nuclear weapon. The first of the deadly inicks pulled up. Five policemen climbed on top of the huge casket, one grabbing the lowest tree dweller by her feet. The others severed her support with long wire cutters. And so they were plucked out, one by one.

By 3pm the convoy was behind the electric fences of Gorleben, where the caskers will be buried in a disused salt mine. What happens then to the ra-

Turks try to sweet talk EU

Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Forjoin the EU when she hosts a meeting for European diplomats today. She is to address ambassadors from the EU's 15 members-states to try to. nudge Turkey into the running for enlargement of the union.

Her sermon, delivered in reassuring European terms, will need to be even more palatable than the marinated shish. Earlier this week Ms Ciller and oth-er Turkish Europhiles were te basis for the fund. Rolf Bloch, president of the With sound investment, the Swiss Federation of Jewish

reminded of obstacles on its path to membership when figures from Europe's Christian Democrat parties, meeting in Brussels, appeared to dismiss the possibility of Turkey joining the list of other nations with which the EU is to begin entry negotiations. In the words of

Romano Prodi, the Italian Turkey's desire to remain sec-Prime Minister: "It | the meeting] was unanimous against

Turkey may soon embrace a different and now devalued European tradition: a military coup. On Friday Turkey's generals slapped down attempts by Necmettin Erbakan, the Prime Minister, to make Turkey more like the Middle East. The Army staged its most dramatic intervention for 14 years and demanded a return to the secular order institutionalised by Turkey's founding father,

Ataturk. The generals affirmed their adherence to the ideal of European integration, but may have over-estimated Europe's susceptibility to claims that the military are the guardians of Turkish democracy. While Europeans feel broad sympathy for

ular, the Army's more draconian demands - for example, the er, less libertarian Europe. In the name of integration, say some, the military has confirmed Turkey's unsuitability for membership of the club.

Turkey may have been guilty of other misjudgements. When Ms Ciller, as Prime Minister. sweet-talked the European parliament into ratifying a customsunion accord with Turkey, she promised to improve Turkey's human-rights record but failed to deliver. Violations, especially in connection with the war against Kurdish separatists, upset parliamentarians so much that they blocked money which

the EU had promised Turkey. The Turks regard this as humbug, In 1989, when its apolication for European Com-

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ferred. Turkey's unsuitability was explained in largely ecoenforcement of a ban on Islamic nomic terms; its human-rights Ms Ciller must also divert her style beards and clothing - are record was afforded little has the highest growth rate of any OECD country, attention has switched. The Turks think they know why: Europe, they claim, overlooked human-rights abuses as long as Turkey provided security on Europe's eastem border. Now, as former

Warsaw Pact nations prepare to

leapfrog into the EU, offending

Turkey appears less perilous. The main obstacle to Turkey's European aspirations is relations with Greece, which is blocking EU funds promised to help Turkey acclimatise to the customs union. The Greeks want assurances that Cyprus will enter the EU - on their terms. In response, the Turks, who disagree, have threatened to derail plans for Nato expansion.

Koreans meet in peace

US and North and South Korean officials began talks that mediators hope will lead to peace on the peninsula. Delegations gathered in a New York hotel for a "joint briefing" by the US and South Korea on proposals for talks aimed at formally ending the Korean War. It is the first time since 1972 that North and South Koreans have sat in the same room to talk peace.

Santer neutral in Renault row

Renault did not follow the spirit of EU laws in moving to close a car plant in Belgium. Jacques Santer, European Commission president, said. But the Commission was not saying specifically whether it believed Renault had broken EU laws relating to how management consulted with workers in the event of a closure. Reuters - Brussels

Yeltsin faces his health critics

President Boris Yeltsin today faces a test of his ability to soldier on when he delivers his state-of-the-nation address. It the most important milestone in his second term and will be a measure of his health after his by-pass Phil Reeves - Moscow operation and pneumonia.

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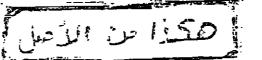
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Bibi shares his housing problem with Mubarak

In Cairo yesterday, both Hosni Mubarak and Benjamin Ne-but to enable 3,000 - 3,015 to be tanyahu played Mr Nice Guy. All the Egyptian president want- residents of Jerusalem for the ed was "a fair and lasting peace". All the Israeli prime minister wanted, it seemed, was peace with all our neighbours and with everyone else in the Arab world".

All this fuss about the new Israeli settlement - henceforth to be called neighbourhood - on territory captured in 1967 was. it turned out, merely a housing problem, according to Mr Ne-tanyahu. Why weren't new buildings going up in Gaza, Amman and Cairo? Only the oc casional drumming of Mr Netanyahn whether Palestinians Mubarak's fingers on the lectern would be able to buy homes in suggested that he thought this was all a pack of whatever-youwould-have-said-it-was if this wasn't the Middle East.

The press conference at the Cairo presidential palace at Ittihadiya had a surreal quality. If dents are able to participate in Yasser Arafat and his henchmen were talking of Domesday, if Mr Mubarak had previously talked of explosions, scarcely a hint emerged that something was rot-ten in the state of the peace process, Indeed, at one incredible moment, the eloquent Mr Netznyahu spelt out just why the Palestinians should be grateful to him and his government. In eight months, he said, his Likud administration had "redeployed" from Hebron, released women prisoners, "effectively [sic] lifted closures" and transferred to the Palestinian Authority remaining tax monies - "all in a

The Israelis had dedicated \$50m (£31m) to Palestinian "in-

have infrastructure in the Arab neighbourhoods of Jerusalem but to enable 3,000 - 3,015 to be next three years" as well as 2,500 units for Jewish residents.

One began to wonder, lis-tening to this sound-bite bril-liance, whether Mr Arafat might not be in trouble. Might not Mr Netanyahu - given his concern for the Palestinians be elected the next President of the Palestinian Authority? And given Mr Netanyabu's apparent desertion of his Likud supporters, Mr Arafat could presumably stand as next Israeli prime minister. So I asked Mr would be able to buy homes in Jewish west Jeruslam, Mr Muharak's eyes, hitherto fixed upon the press, swivelled to the Israeli prime minister who was

"All of its [Jerusalem's] resielections," the Israeli leader replied. Jerusalem was "one municipality", he said. "I don't think there's any limitation on the purchase of houses, as far as I know. I think there is no limitation on houses anywhere." It was all about "the availablity of housing". If this was true, then tens of thousands of Palestinians could bid for homes in Is-rael. So did Mr Netanyahu accept that UN Security Council resolution - calling for the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied land in return for security for all the states in the are: -remain the foundation and basis of the Middle East peace process? It was "a basis", he said. The key word, of course, being

You had to pinch yourself We have decided not only to during their press conference yesterday to temember that the whole show was on the rocks. Egyptian journalists stood up to accuse Mr Netanyahu of reneging on the whole agreement what of the evictions, the closing of Palestinian offices, the Jerusalem tunnel, the delays in the implementation of withdrawals, they asked? And Israeli journalists asked why Mr Mubarak's police had accused an Egyptian of spying for Israel, why Egyptian journalists had at-

> creasing trade with Israel? The Egyptian press dutifully referred to the new housing scheme on occupied land by its Arabic name of Abu Ghoneim; the Israeli press - and, of course, CNN's reporter - dutifully called it by its Hebrew name. Har Homa. Only after Mr Ne-

> tacked Israel, why the Egyptian

Cairo businessmen from in-

tanyahu had played the peacemaker yet again - Jerusalem was "a city of peace", he said, a "living city" with "a housing shortage of immense proportions", conceding only that it was "a point of great emotion, great contention" - did the Egyptian president quote from the Oslo agreement - that Jerusalem was supposed to be part of the final status talks under the Oslo pact - and added: "I'm concerned - I'm afraid this may create problems in the future.

with Mr Mubarak - Egyptian government had prevented police torture. flawed elections and executions come to mind but one could only admire his honour vesterday. He was an Arab host and he would not insult his Israeli guest. Yet if the impending disaster in the Middle East was merely the result of a local housing crisis, why on earth were we all gathered here to listen to these two men?



Heads of ceremony: More than 2,000 Moroccans attending "La Baia", the pact of Koranic alliance between monarch and people, during festivities to mark the 36th anniversary of the enthronement of King Hassan II Photograph: AFP

frastructure" and planned new "a" rather than "the".

Three Gorges dam 'will better Nature'

electron appears

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Sometimes nature loses her rent circumstances of China's balance and it takes a massive development we do not foresee Chinese hydro-engineering pro-, any such kind of risks".
ject to sort her out.

The project is the largest ject to sort her out.

the Yangize river has already ry. Upstream, the new reservoir caused the inbalance, or has always will drown the famous Three ready made the river lose its Gorges Scenery, force the re-original balance," said Lu location of 1.2 million people, Youmei yesterday, general manager of the Three Gorges Dam Development Corporation.

"So we think that the balance is a relative concept, whereas imbalance is an absolute concept. So, given this situation, we must adopt some artificial or man-made engineering methods to change the already imbal-anced ecosystem."

In this case, the artifice is the Three Gorges Dam, one of the world's most controversial infrastructure projects which on completion in 2009 will have displaced more than one million people, cost around 204bn yuan (£16bn), and will flood a total

area the size of Singapore.

Around the world, questions persist about the social and environmental cost of the project, and whether situation will undersize the best relevalations of the mine the best calculations of the engineers. Within China, all debate on the project has been silenced despite the fact that five years ago nearly one-third of the normally compliant deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC) did not vote in favour of the scheme. In November this year, the first phase of the dam will be completed when the this build-up will "only" decourse of the Yangtze is diverted behind temporary dams and work on the 175-metre high main dam wall commences.

Yesterday, the men who are in charge of building the dam confronted sceptics with a display of confidence verging on hubris. "We can foresee all the possible difficulties that we are lic bonds, paying interest at algoing to face in the course of most twice inflation, and reconstruction, and we have deemable after just three years. adopted corresponding mea- went on sale on 28 February sures in this regard," said Mr Lit. and sold out in five days flat.

involve social and financial considerations, "but under the cur-

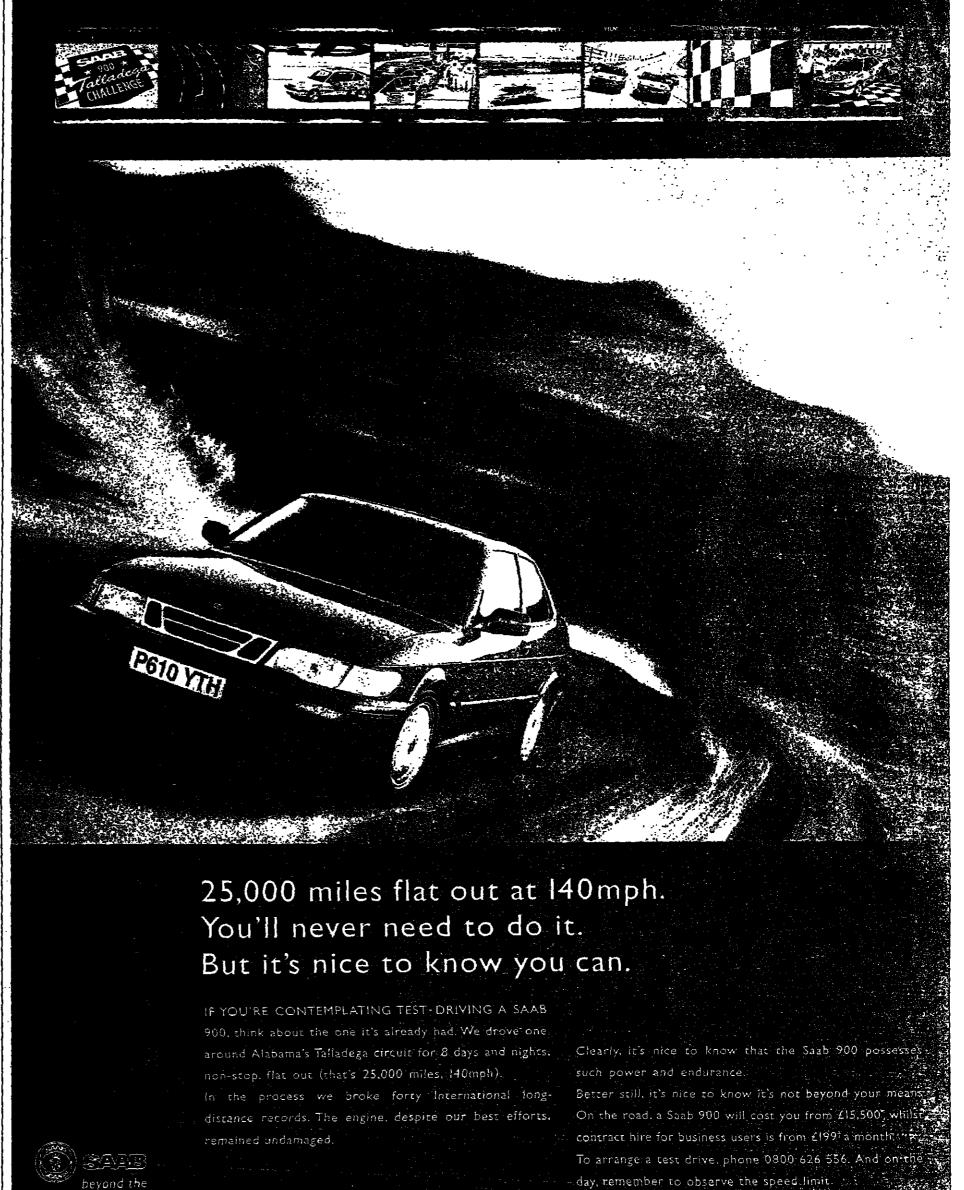
The gradual evolution of earth-moving exercise in histo-1,600 enterprises, several cities, 140 towns, and 4,500 villages in Hubei and Sichnan provinces. Relocation is the most sen-

sitive issue, but one on which officials will engage in little public debate. Just 60,000 people have so far been moved, and in January this year a special body was set up to prevent misuse of the relocation funds; financing luxury hotels and cars with the money was outlawed. Funding the massive project

has posed another uncertainty. The dam has no World Bank support, thus avoiding stringent independent environmental assessments. So electricity price levies, income from electricity generation, bank loans, export credits and public bond issues must raise the necessary funds. Mr Ln said: "We expect to re-pay all the debt by 2012." Siltation is the biggest tech-

nical challenge. Every year the Yangtze carries down some 530 million tonnes of silt in its waters, much of which will be trapped behind the dam wall. Guo Shuyan, deputy director of the dam construction committee, said that after 50 to 80 years, crease storage capacity of the dam reservoir by 14 per cent. For the people of China, the

best thing that can be said about the dam project is probably the short-term investment spin-offs. The government is offering very attractive terms to raise the cash. A 1bn yuan tranche of pub-



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Jarmil Burghauser

is well known internationally, since he is Dvorak's "Köchel". For many years now the con-

fusion in the opus numbering of Dvorak's music, caused by mis-allocation on the part of the composer's German publisher Fritz Simrock, has been corrected by the use of "B" numbers, as is done through the "K" numbers in the case of Mozart. It was in 1960 that Burghauser's Antonin Dvorak: thematicky katalog, bibliographie, prehled zivota (Antonin Dvorak: thematic catalogue, bibliography, survey of life and work") was published in Prague and immediately placed alongside those of Schmieder for Bach, Hoboken for Haydn, Köchel for Mozart and Kinsky for Beethoven, as the definitive work of reference. As if such a monumental undertaking was not enough, Burghauser's life was lived to the full in many fields of

activity, not all of them musical. Born Jarmil Mokry in Pisek in south Bohemia, in 1921, he was taught music from the age of six and had embarked upon his first compositions by the age of 12. Formal study in composition came in 1933, when he became a private pupil first of Jaroslav Kricka and then of Otakar Jeremias from 1937 until 1941. He entered the Prague Conservatoire in 1941, where his musical training included conducting under Metod Dolezil and Pavel Dedecek. On graduation three years later he was admitted for a further two years to the advanced conducting course of

the great Vaclay Talich. His early works had already begun to receive performances. and the Adagio and Furiant from his Symphony No 2 in D minor were broadcast by Czech Radio in 1936 when he was still 15 years old. By 1942 concerts of his works were given in Prague, first under the auspices of the organisation Pritomnost ("The Present"), with which he remained associated throughout his life. More significant recognition came in 1946 when the Prague Symphony Orchestra under Vaclav Smetacek performed his cantata Utrpeni a vzkriseni ("Suffering and Resurrection") based on texts from the Kralice Bible.

Burghauser also showed an carly interest in musical history and research, entering Charles University to study musicology, under Josef Huttr, and psychology. The completion of his studies coincided with the advent of Communist control in Czechoslovakia in 1948. As one who refused to embrace the new political regime, openly remaining true also to his Christian beliefs, he was denied graduation. Indeed, like many Czechs, he received his doctoral degree only in 1991, after the

fall of the totalitarian regime. From 1946 to 1950, he held the post of Chorus Master of the opera, at the National Theatre in Prague, where he worked alongside many of the great figures in Czech music, including Talich. It was in 1950 that his change of name to Burghauser, the maiden name of his mother, a distinguished painter divorced from his father, was officially sanctioned by the authorities. In the same year his second onera. I akomec ("The Miser"), based on Molière to a libretto by Ludek Mandaus,

was produced in Liberec. Although Burghauser also taught at the Prague Academy of Musical Arts from 1946 to 1949 and served as the programme planner for the cham-

The name of Jarmil Burghauser ber opera in the mid-1940s, is well known internationally, from 1953 he devoted himself in music exclusively to composition and musicology. He was employed for a time by the Czech State Film Studios and he became a member of the editorial boards of the Dvorak, Fibich and Janacek complete editions, positions that he held

until the end of his life. His work for the Dvorak Edition is another of his monuments. He was appointed to that board before the death of his father-in-law, Otakar Sou-rek, Dvorak's first biographer, in 1956. The first volumes appeared in 1955 and the work remains in progress. In more recent times his work on the Janacek Edition has come in for criticism, particularly in his attempts to "simplify" some of Janacek's notation. In 1964 he was appointed Director of the music drama section of the Union of Composers, in that period of easing of political oppression that led to the Dubcek era and subsequently the tragic events of 1968.

Like many of his fellow artists, Burghauser became a victim of the post-1968 backlash; the unique recordings of many of his works in the archives of Czech Radio were wilfully destroved. His name was removed from the published list of the editorial board of the Dvorak Edition, although he continued to work as a member. He was prevented from travelling and was able to continue composing only by using the pseudonym Michal Hajku until the political situation began to ease.

Under this name his Rozmberksk Stita appeared in 1972 and his Guitar Concerto in 1978. It was typical of him that, where Dvorak and musical matters were concerned, he was prepared to take on his political masters. To the end he campaigned for the erection of a statue to Dvorak where. amazingly, none yet exists.

His own music was first steeped in the legacy of his beloved Dvorak, as can be heard in his ballet music for Honza a cert ("Johnny and the Devil", 1954). However, the influence of both Novak and Martinu can be discerned in other of his works from the 1950s, with neoclassicism and the music of Prokofiev also finding sympathy. In 1957 came perhaps his most successful score, another threeact ballet, Sluha dvou panu ("Servant of Two Masters"), based on Goldoni and first staged at the National Theatre the following year.

As with most Czech composers, his native folk music found a place in his output, no better than in the Five Czech Dances for nonet of 1940, later arranged for wind quintet in 1955. Film and incidental music also featured significantly in his large output.
In the 1960s Burghauser's

style in composition changed to embrace his own use of serial techniques, to which be gave the name "harmonic serialism". Works of this time include Sedm reliefu ("Seven Reliefs", 1962) and Cesn ("The Ways", 1964), for strings, percussion, harp, guitar and cimbalom. He wrote about this method in Cesty now hudby ("Ways of New Music", 1964). His largest work using this technique came in 1963-64 with his opera Most ("The Bridge"),

staged in 1967. In 1974 he revised his Symphony No 1 in G from 1933 and went on to write a number of chamber works during that and the next decade, as well as the

significant Symphonic Fantasy. V zemi ceske ("In the Czech Country", 1982).

However, more and more of

musicological work and writing. Of more than a dozen books, after his "Thematic Catalogue", of his works in October 1996.

Jarmil Burghauser was a member of a remarkable group of senior Czech composers, the Pondelnici, which meets every Monday in a Prague arts club He was a lifelong member of the church of Sv Marketa in the Blevnov district of Prague. where he, Jan Hanus, the late Vaciav Smetacek, Karel Cer-nicky and Jiri Vyskocil ensured a high standard of music even throughout the restrictive years of the Communist era.

youth - the movement was pro-hibited during both the Nazi oc-cupation and Communist years (except for a short period before 1968) - he was called upon to become the first Chief Scout after the Velvet Revolution in 1989. He remained as Chief Scout until 1994, by which time he could hand over a lively organisation to his successor.

He was the Chairman of the Dvorak Society in the Czech Republic and in 1974 was appointed one of the first Vice-Presidents of the Dvorak Society for Czech and Slovak Music, in Great Britain. Among



ing British Dvorak scholar, the late John Clapham. The following generation of Dvorak and Czech music researchers will remember him as the most generous and kind-hearted person, as well as the musicological Aladdin's Cave which was his Prague home. In later years he was greatly supported by the companionship of his near neighbour Jarmilka Hnevsova. The day after his death, the long-awaited second edition of his Dvorak Thematic Cata-

Graham Melville-Mason Jurnil Michael Mokry (Jarmil Burehauser), composer and musicologist: born Pisek 21 October 1921; married Vlada Sourkova

his time became taken up with

perhaps the most significant are Cteni a hra paratur ("Reading and Playing Scores", 1960), writ-ten with Petr Eben and Leos Janacek, and Edicni zasady a smernice ("Editorial Principles and Directions", 1979), with Milan Solc. In 1991 he was a leading figure at the conferences to mark the 150th anniversary of Dvorak's birth, held in New Orleans, Saarbrücken and Prague, as well as at the Royal Musical Association Annual Conference in London. In 1993 he led the Czech delegation at the centenary celebrations of Dvorak's visit to Spillville in Iowa. To mark his 75th birthday, Supraphon issued a special CD

An active boy scout from his

his closest friends was the lead



logue" was published in Prague.

(marriage dissolved); died Prague 19 February 1997.

Prime Minister, and that Alec Home would. He replied shortly. "It was the mind of a solicitor." Chelmer had one unfulfilled ambition, to be a diplomat.

A genial Machiavelli: Chelmer, left, with Mangaret Shepherd and Lord Poole after visiting Harold Macmillan in hospital, October 1963

But, in one of the rare moments of weakness in his life, he had agreed to become a solicitor and eventually joined his family firm. As with so many men of his generation, his life was interrupted by the Second World War: at the age of 30 he was a lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Artillery, having served in that desperate fight on the beaches of France after the Allies had landed for the final onslaught of Hitler's Germany, for which he won a Military Cross.

The defeat of Churchill in the 1945 general election brought the young Eric Edwards to think seriously of politics. Both he and his father forsook the Liberal tradition of the family, and became Conservatives. This was not an altogether pleasing development for the rest of the family, with whom the Liberal tradition was still strong. But Chelmer and so useful antally of Macmil- pursued his conversion to the exlan in ensuring that R.A. Butler tent of seeking a Conservative

failed to get the party vote in Southend but, in his determined way, went on to serve the party many voluntary capacities. The Liberal past of his family and that of his school, Felsted, were quickly forgotten.

As he rose steadily through

Lord Chelmer

the ranks of the voluntary side of his party he attracted the attention of Harold Macmillan, always a brilliant spotter of talent. The Tory party was chronically short of funds, and Chelmer devised - in his capacity as deputy party chairman - a scheme by which at each party conference a list would be posted of quotas of subscription (all quotas were devised by himself and Oliver Poole, the first Lord Poole) so that it could be seen which constituencies had come up to the mark, and which had not. It was, like Chelmer himself, simple, with a certain obvious charm, and brutal. It was later to be developed into a more elaborate system of elegant intimidation by Lord Carrington when he was chairman of the party.

however, Chelmer's most crucial

Macmillan) reported that Con-1963, when Harold Macmillan decided that his health would not servative peers were overwhelmingly in favour of the then Lord Home as Macmillan's allow him to continue as Prime Minister. Historians still dissuccessor. But it is fair to say that pute what, exactly, Macmillan's Chelmer, with his background as motives were, and what manoeuvres he undertook. Macmila voluntary local Conservative worker, also trawled more than lan at one time or another supported Reginald Maudling, noble opinion. "The fact of the Iain Macleod and Quintin Hailmatter," he said to George sham as his successor, his one Hutchinson and myself, "is that Thries love a lord. settled view was that R.A. But-Apart from his political inler should not succeed him. His

choice, finally, was for the Earl fluence, however, Chelmer had of Home. Two people, the late Margaret Shepherd, then Chair-man of the National Union of a wide range of financial and sporting concerns. He was on the boards of many compa-Conservative and Unionist Asnies, and he loved sailing. Resociations, and Chelmer, were garded by many as a prototype despatched independently to of Machiavelli, he was regardsound out opinion and come ed by others as the essence of back with the right answer. geniality: he was probably both. Chelmer was also sent by Patrick Cosgrave Macmillan to see Home, and in-

Eric Cyril Boyd Edward. political party worker: born 9 October 1914: MC 1944: Kt 1954: Chairworries about his fitness); the answer was stituted by both to Magnillan and the Mag Chelmer, married 1939 Enid Har-

vey (one son); died 3 March 1997.

Photograph: Hulton Getty



Lily Sieff was one of the outstanding leaders of Jewish communal organisations in Great Britain and in Israel. At the time of her death she

Eric Chelmer was both an ef-

fective fund-raiser for the Con-

servative Party, as its Joint

freasurer from 1965 to 1977,

and a formidable politician who

the late George Hutchinson -

one of the most astute com-

mentators on Conservative pol-

itics at the time, and a former

press secretary to Harold Macmillan. While we were hav-

ing a post-prandial drink

Hutchinson saw Chelmer across

the room. "Come," he said, "and have a drink with the sec-

ond most intelligent unelected

Tory in politics. After Oliver

Poole, of course." I had heard

of Chelmer, but, as we walked

across the room. I asked

Hutchinson what made him so

special. "He is the greatest

fund-raiser in our party histo-

ry, and he helped Harold make

After a suitable period of dif-

fidence on my youthful part, I asked Cheimer what had made him so successful a fund-raiser,

Alec Home Prime Minister."

In 1973 I was lunching with

never sought electoral office.

was the Chairman of the British Friends of the Art Museum of Israel, a trustee of the British Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, on the Council of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, a member of the Ex-ecutive of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council of Great Britain, on the Management Committee of the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology and one of the leading spirits of Wizo (the World Zionist Orranisation), where she served as frustee, patron, and in many executive positions for its various activities. There, and in many other areas, her great organi-sational skill and her questing spirit of generosity and concern for humanity manifested itself.

Her life was a portrait of the

Jewish world in the 20th century. Born Lily Spatz in Lemberg, Poland, in 1930, she lived in a setting of comfort and privilege surrounded by a loving family. She was always shy, hiding behind a sofa when her father had visitors; and in due course hid that shyness within a structure of total organisation controlling every aspect of her

public and private life. When the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939, the Spatz family first moved into their country house. Then, some of them, including Lily, managed a spectacular escape by car to Czechoslovakia, where they crossed the border clandestinely. Eventually, through Romania, they found their way to Palestine, and Lily's love affair with that land began. She had moved from a comfortable life to a one-

primary and high school in Tel Aviv, and expanded her knowledge of languages, which even-tually brought her to Geneva, where she obtained her BA in Economic Science. By then, she spoke French, Hebrew, Polish. English and Italian, which she used for her art studies in Italy. She continued her studies in the Graduate Department of the London School

of Economics. Lily's first husband was Martin Moretzki, the son of close family friends in Poland who had also escaped to Israel. They married in 1954 and lived in Montreal and London until his death from cancer in 1958. Five vears later she married, as his fourth wife, Marcus Sieff (now Lord Sieff of Brimpton and for many years the governing spirit of Marks and Spencer); and room flat in Tel Aviv, but felt happy in that new world. She a new life began for her in Lon-don. Lily stood alongside Mar-

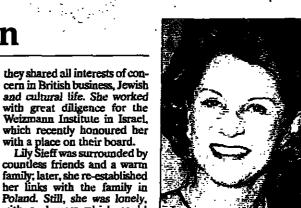
they shared all interests of concern in British business. Jewish and cultural life. She worked with great diligence for the Weizmann Institute in Israel, which recently honoured her with a place on their board.

quire about his health (he had

suffered tuberculosis in the 1930s and there were still

family; later, she re-established her links with the family in Poland. Still, she was lonely, with a shyness which could keen others at a distance. Israel and Jewish life after the Holocaust were abiding concerns. A short time ago, she took her daughter Daniela, a biological anthropologist, to Poland to examine the death camps, and to look for her old home. It no longer existed.

During this last period, with Marcus now ill, she remained by his side, the devoted, loyal wife and nurse. Her own illness came to her suddenly learnt Hebrew, attended both cus in all phases of his work and and unexpectedly, and her February 1997.



courage and shining spirit during these final months were an inspiration. Albert H. Friedlander

Pauline Lily Spatz, community leader: born Lemberg, Poland 16 July 1930; married 1954 Martin Moretzki (died 1958), 1963 Marcus Sieff (Kt 1971, created 1980 Baron Sieff of Brimpton; one daughter); died London 28

DEATHS

DEAKIN: John, formerly Secretary of the Cavendish Laboratory, died sud-denly on Sunday 23 February 1997 in Madeira, Funeral service at Churchill College Chapel, Cambridge, on Monday IV March at 2,30pm. Hease send any donations to the National Ridney Research Fund or the British Heart Completion of the United Heart Sons, 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge CB4

FOX: On 3 March 1997, pgacefully,

ON: On 3 March 1997, peacefully, Marguerite Alexandra (Airs), aged SS, widow of Thomay Fox, most level and loving mother of Tom (decased). Christopher, Clemeny and Lynette, grandmother and greatgrandmother. Funeral Tucyday 11 March, Langford Budydle, at 1 30pm.

"Bessed are they who die in the Lord." MINCHIN: On 28 February 1997 at Hare Lodge, Haikham, East Sussex, Evelyn Mary, aged 91 years, widow of Harry Minchen, A truly wonderful lady who always put the interest of others before her own. It was a priv-tlege to have known her. Funeral Service at Eastbourne Crematorium Main Chapel on Tuesday 11 March at 3.15pm. Flowers or donations for Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare may be sent to Haine & Son Ltd, 19 South Street, Eastbourne. ZEFF: On 25 February 1997 at home in Lewis, Richard (Zeffie), aged 56

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen visits Kingsbury High Schaud, London NW9, Prime: Edward, Trustee, Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Frandarien, begins a vasit to New York; Lewisburg, West Virginia: Nassan, the Bahannas; and West Palm Beach, Florida The Princess Boyal, President, Rating for the Doubled Association, attends a Coun-eil Meeting at Saddlers' Hall, London ECP and attends the Institute of Petro

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

years. Sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service at Wood vale Crematorium, Brighton, on Fri day 7 March 1997 at 10.30am. No flowers please but donations if desired flowers please but donations if desired to Save the Children Fund c/o Coop-er & Son Funeral Services, 42 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2DD, 01273 475557.

Announcements for Gazette BURTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding aundressaries, In Memortam) should be sent in writing Nemoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette analysis of the Canada (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette an-nouncements footiers, functions, Forth-coming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Please include

attends a concert in aid of St Christopher's Fellowship Howard House Appeal, at St James's Church, London Will, The Duchess of Kent, Patron, miscils her por trait. Adamed by dinner, at Dawning College, Cambridge

Changing of the Guard The Horsehold Cavalry Mounted Regi ment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham: Nijmegen Company Grenauter Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11 Mam. band provided by the Cokbineam Guards.

Birthdays

Dr Madge Adam, astronomer, 85; Miss Jean Boht, actress, 61; Brigadier Michael Calvert, former SAS commander, 84; Mr William Davis, edi-lor and publisher of High Life, 64; Miss Kiki Dee, rock singer, 50; Mr Donald Dixon MP, 68; Professor Sir Charles Frank, physicist, 86; Mr David Gilmour, rock guitarist, 53; Mr Richard Giordano, chairman, British Gas, 63; Sir Alistair Grant, chairman, Safeway, 60: Professor David Hendry, Professor of Economics, Oxford University 53: Professor Sir Raymond Hoffenburg, former President. Wolfson College, Oxford, 74: Miss Judy Loe, actress, 50; Mr Lorin Maazel, conductor, 67; Sir Hal Miller, former MP, 68; Mr Malcolm Moss MP. 54; Mr John Noakes, actor and television presenter, 63; Mr Richard Noble, world land speed record holder, 51; Mr Peter Roebuck, cricketer, 41: Sir Ian Dixon Scott, former ambassador, 88: The Right Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, 68; Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, op-eratic soprano, 53; Mlle Valentina Nikolayeva Tereshkova, cosmonaut, 60; Dr David Whitaker, chairman, J. Whitaket & Sons, 66; Miss Mary Wilon, singer, 53; Mrs Ann Win MP, 50; Sir Oliver Wright, former antsador in Washington, 76.

Anniversaries

Births: Michelangelo (Michelagnioko Buonarroti), painter, sculptor and poet, 1475; Savinien Cyrano de Bergpoet, 1475; Savimen Cytana de Deag-erac, novelist and playwright, 1619; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, poet, 1806; Frankie Howerd (Francis Alex Howard), comedian, 1922, Deaths: Francis Beaumont, playwright, 1616;

Louisa May Alcott, novelist, 1888; Gottlieb Daimler, mechanical engi-neer. 1900; John Philip Sousa, bandheer. 1900. Your Pinn Stotisa, Sand-master and composer. 1932; David Ivor Novello (Davies), composer and playwright, 1951; George Form-by (William Hoy Booth), singer and comedian, 1961; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, 1967; Pearl Buck (Syden-stricker), novelist, 1971; Donald Maclean, diplomat and Soviet agent 1983; Sir Hugh Fraser, politician 1984; Melina Mercouri (Amalia-Maria Mercouri), politician and ac-ress, 1994. On this day: Verdi's La Traviata was first performed, Venuce 1853; British soldiers were granted the right to wear spectacles on or off duty, 1902; the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon was destroyed by fire, 1926; frozen food was first put on sale by the Birdseye company, 1930; Ghana became independent, 1957. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Baired and Bilfrid, St Cadroe, St Chrodegang of Metz, St Colette, Saints Cyneburga, Cyneswide and Tibba, St Cyril of Constantinople, St Fridolin, St Ollegarius or Oldegar and Saints

Lectures Victoria and Albert Museum: Clare

Perpetua and Felicity.

Ford-Willie, "Donatello and the early 15th century", 2.30pm. National Portrait Gallery: Margaret Binnie, "Dr Richard Meade (1673-1754): physician to royalty, art col-lector and connoisseur", 1.10pm. London School of Economics (Lakatos Award Lecture): Professor Abner Shimony, "Are Fun Natural Laws the Product of Cosmic

Closed visits for high-risk prisoners lawful Regina v Secretary of State for

the Home Department, ex parte O'Dimibbir; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Mr Justice Buckley) 27 February 1997

The imposition of stringent restrictions on visits to high escape-risk prisoners held in special secure units, with a view to eliminating the risk of weapons and other items which might assist an escape being smuggled in, was lawful.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Law Report, 24 October 1995) refusing applications by Liam O'Dhuibhir and Michael O'Brien for judicial review of a decision of the Home Secretary, in June 1995, to impose a "closed conditions" regime on visits to all those category A prisoners classed as

"exceptional escape risk". The decision to impose the new regime had been introduced on the recommendation of reports commissioned in the wake of an escape by six exceptional escape-risk category A prisoners (including the applicant O'Dhuibhir)

LAW REPORT

6 March 1997

Whitemoor Prison in September 1994. The escapers had in their possession a variety of equipment including a rope ladder and two pistols and am-munition. It was concluded that such items must have been smuggled into prison by visitors.

Under the new regime, vis-itors passed through a metal detector, had their possessions X-rayed and were subjected to a rub-down search. There were cameras in the rooms where visits took place. Prisoners were strip-searched before and after visits. A fixed glass screen was placed between prisoners and their visitors.

Legal representatives visiting prisoners to take instruction or give advice were allowed to pass papers to prisoners on the other side of the glass screen without them being read by prison staff and to talk to them by telephone. For family visits, the closed visits regime was to be the norm but in exceptional circumstances open visits would

be permitted. Edward Flugerald QC and Tun Owen from the special secure unit at (B.M. Bimberg & Co) for the appli-

cants: Kermeth Parker OC and Pushpinder Saini (Treasury Solicitor) for

> applicants contended that the policy was unlawful because although section 47(1) of the Prison Act 1952 entitled the Home Secretary to make rules for the regulation and management of prisons and for the classification, treatment, discipline and control of persons

Lord Justice Kennedy said the

detained therein, that did not entitle him to interfere with the lawyer-client relationship by more than the minimum amount necessary in the interests of prison security. But his Lordship did not ac-

cept that closed visits impeded the free flow of communications between a solicitor and his client. The glass screen at worst did no more than make communication more difficult. In R v Home Secretary, ex p

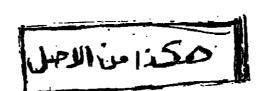
Leech [1994] QB 198, Steyn LJ proposed the test of "whether there is a self-evident and pressing need" for the restriction imposed (in that case the

reading and censoring of letters between prisoners and their lawyers under rule 33(3) of the Prison Rules 1964, which was held to be ultra vires).

In the present case the "selfevident and pressing need" test had no real role to play, because rule 33(1) of the 1964 Rules, under which the Secretary of State might "with a view to se-curing discipline and good order or the prevention of crime" impose "restrictions . . . upon the communications to be permitted between a prisoner and other persons", was obviously intra vires section 47(1). Once that was recognised, all that remained was to decide whether the instruction to governors, imposing the closed visits regime. was unreasonable.

It was obvious that the situation had been carefully addressed. In the light of the security problems, it could not be said that in June 1995 or at any time since those entrusted with the unenviable task of deciding whether to implement in relation to exceptional escape risk category A prisoners the closed visits policy were not entitled to decide as they did.

Paul Magrath, Barrister



At last, the nation is offered a great promise

in open agreement, it does not it is a good omen. When they field, in what grounds, will they be replaced? Robert Maclennan and Robin Cook, two sensible and decent men, optimism grows. And the joint Labour and Liberal Democrat proposals for constitutional

betterment did not disappoint.
A special merit was their modesty, and the fact that they still depend - in the case of plans for devolution and proportional representation - on popular approval through referenda. At last, it seems, the movement is under way to reform a constitution hardly less Venetian than when Tory Disraeli coined that phrase - disparagingly - a century and a half ago. We now have a prospect that within four or five years, perhaps even at the election after next, voters will see a fairer representation of their choices than first-past-the-post offers. To many that reform would be the most far-reaching the next government could effect.

The report of the Lib-Lab consultative committee is far from perfect. It has several sore thumbs. One is reform of the Lords. The document funks what it is that a second chamber is intended to do. How far should an upper chamber explicitly be given a role of blocking, checking and where necessary kickingfor-touch? Only when we know what an upper house is for can we assess proposals for its composition - not that there

Then in a season of political discord two parties come together are any in the Lib-Lab report. The hereditary peers disappear (except for those favoured few who are to be reinguarantee that they will talk sense, but carnated as life peers) but how, and on

Perhaps there is method in ignoring the detail of Lords reform. This document embodies a huge commitment of Parliamentary time and political energy. A strong sense of priority among these reforms is vital, and not only to get them through the House of Commons. Any new government, whatever the size of its majority, has only a limited amount of political credit, which should be spent first on the big-picture changes. Giving the British people the option of radically changing the voting system must, in terms of its impact on our politics, be at or near the top of that list. There will never be final pre-referendum agreement on a single method of voting; the Reform Commission will have to struggle with details of Irish-style, Germanstyle and other systems which are none of them perfect. But in the end it will give us a straight choice between a single more proportional system and the status quo. Reform may or may not happen; but that single agreement is a huge leap towards it.

Apart from full discussion of the Lords, the other yawning gap in the report concerns local government, and is all the more surprising given the long-term enthusiasm of the Liberal Democrats for genuine power-sharing, and



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indeed that party's current strength in the town and county halls. Is this dour realism on Labour's part? Is it embarrassment? Gordon Brown's proposals for budgetary control are deeply centralising and allow no room for local financial discretion, though even without new money there is much that local authorities could do freed of central constraint. But perhaps Labour is not pre-pared to see its little local embarrassments - its Doncasters and Liverpools - cut loose and allowed real freedom.

Still, it would be churlish to identify only the gaps without celebrating the commitments - for example, to the

incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights, and to a domestic apparatus helping citizens make use of its provisions. Recent discussion of privarisation as a way of securing improvements in London's Underground has once more focused attention on the dearth of city-wide democracy in the nation's capital. The report suggests the simple expedient of asking people whether they want an elected authority. It will be trickier than that. There is no easy way of identifying who the Londoners are who need to be invited to vote. Do they, for example, include the inhabitants of Carshalton

been most reluctant to be included? But to pose that kind of question is to

state the obvious: no reform is cleanlimbed and simple. To seek to enact even half the packet of those displayed in this report would be to face down a mountain of opposition - Parliamentary opposition that will be furious, if not wholly cogent. To listen to Prime Minister Major is to be transported back to 1832 - since the country is so well governed. there is no possible justification for abolishing the constituency of Old Sarum. To listen to the more sophisticated Tory opponents of constitutional change is hardly more enlightening according to David Willetts all manner of changes in our economic lives are natural and inevitable ... except modernisation of the way we are governed, which is somehow unnatural and to be resisted to the last ditch. The Tory position is, sad to report, little more than a defence of vested Tory interest. Under Conservative rule the Constitution has been allowed to become unbalanced, disordered and, on occasion, a threat to liberty.

It may be that if the Tories lose the election some people (including some Labour front-benchers?) might lose their enthusiasm for constitutional reform. Why do we need radical change when the system allows alternation in power? But there's the real significance and challenge of yesterday's report. It is more than a here-today, gone-tomorrow

crat voters and vice versa. They offer themselves to the voters as politicians groping beyond narrow party interest, experimenting with a more generous and plural way of holding power. It is a great promise, which deserves to awaken a prickle of interest in a sceptical nation.

The Swiss break the mould

For a country as internally diverse as Switzerland – four official languages, a cacophony of cantons - and one so open to trade and tourism, it is odd how deeply an unflattering national stereotype has lodged abroad. The Swiss are widely perceived as secretive and selfish, boring and smug. Now a more serious charge is added: wilful historical myopia over the Holocaust. In such a context vesterday's move to create a generously large victims fund was not only welcome in itself but also subversive of the stereotype. The Swiss action follows intense international interest in Nazi bank accounts and anticipates the findings of both domestic and American historical commissions. It is none the less a grand gesture, to the credit of the Swiss government and people.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Covert police tactics beyond legal control

Sir: Facial recognition systems ("The face of crime captured digitally", 3 March) are only one facet of the new generation of "intelligence-led" policing methods. There are other methods. such as the increased reliance on informers, the use of bugging devices and the exchange of intelligence information generally, nationally and internationally. These methods are largely

uncontrolled by law. They are being operated either in accordance with guidelines (video surveillance and informers), or under inadequate legislation not designed for the purpose (facial recognition systems and data protection law).

Even the DIC not cover all listening devices: only those which "interfere with property" or fall within the definition of "wireless telegraphy". There are present and future generations of bugging techniquesfor example, those using infrared light or laser technology - which fall completely outside its provisions.

Intelligence-led methods are covert and intrusive. The Data Protection Act offers protection to individuals in some circumstances, but was not drafted with presentday surveillance techniques in mind. In the absence of a general right to privacy in this country, it is essential that there be specific statutory protection to ensure that such police operations are both fair and accountable, particularly if the evidence gained is to be admissible in any subsequent criminal trial.
MADELEINE COLVIN Legal Officer JUSTICE London EC4

Sir: Michael Howard wants to restrict the right of the accused to opt for jury trial in many cases of medium severity ("Howard under fire over plans to curb jury trials",

28 February). His principal reason, I gather, is that large numbers of these cases result in last-minute "guilty" pleas, often as a consequence of pleabargaining in the moments before the case is due to be heard. Much expensive crown court time is wasted and the progress of other cases delayed.

The situation is no different in magistrates' courts. A surprising number of trials dissolve at the last minute for precisely the same reasons. The costs will be considerably less, but unlike the crown court, where there will probably he other cases ready to be heard, the day or half-day set aside in magistrates' courts is often lost.

Should not the Home Secretary be looking at a ban on the Crown Prosecution Service agreeing to less serious charges, in response to the offer of "guilty" pleas, during the seven days before the trial date? The only reason for the last-

minute nature of most changes of plea is that lawyers on both sides have not contacted each other before. Human nature will see to it that things are left to the last minute - but if the last minute were to be seven days before the trial a lot of time and money would be saved. RICHARD WELCH Nantglyn, Chwd

Sir. When a burglar broke into our house, he was soon disturbed by my daughter, who arrived just after him. They saw each other just hefore he climbed back out of the kitchen window. Total damage



nervous young woman. She later identified him from photographs at the police station and picked him out of an identity parade.

Not only did he claim his right to trial by jury, but he also got it postponed at the last minute secause one of his witnesses was ill. The eventual trial started one day and finished the next; there was a unanimous verdict of guilty and, although this was not his first offence, a sentence of 10 hours of community service - after three visits to court by harristers, solicitors, police and witnesses.

The magistrates would have cost us far less and might have produced a more appropriate sentence. Redditch, Worcestershire

Sir: In your leading article on Jack Straw's proposals to tackle juvenile offending (4 March), you say that the facts of youth crime justify Mr Straw's "song and dance" about the issue. The trouble is that the facts are extremely difficult to interpret

The Criminal Statistics, for example, show a marked decline in the number of 10-to-13-year-olds convicted or cautioned in the years since 1985. The numbers of 14-to-17-year-olds convicted or cautioned has remained more or less constant over that period.

It is said that the greater use of informal action by the police may explain these trends. But as they stand, the statistics do not warrant the feverish language about young people and crime to which politicians of both main parties now seem to be addicted. STEPHEN SHAW Director Prison Reform Trust London EC1

about £80 and a frightened and still | Europe fails to give green lead

Sir. The European Union has not shown the leadership on attacking man-made climate change which your article ("EU to cut global warming gases by tenth", 4 March) suggests. The EU has not pledged to cut emissions by 10 per cent or by any other figure. It has simply agreed a "negotiating position" for the continuing talks on who should cut emissions of which gases by when, in the hope that other developed nations will accept a challenging target. If consensus can be reached, the EU as a whole will reduce total emissions of three key greenhouse gases (CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O) by 15 per cent. by 2010.

While this proposal is important, and may breathe life into the

currently deadlocked climate change negotiations, it is flawed. Critically missing from the EU's negotiating position is the essential 2005 interim target year, which is necessary to ensure that industrialised nations take early action to limit greenhouse gas emissions, rather than leaving it all

until the last minute in 13 years' The original proposal from the Dutch government (currently holding the EU presidency) proposed cuts in CO emissions of 8 per cent by 2005, and 12 per cent by 2010. These sub-targets were eliminated in the EU statement, allegedly at the insistence of the UK's John Gummer. The EU will now be unable to

table a 2005 target, as the next EU Environmental Council meeting is after 3 June. This is the deadline for a protocol proposal to be formally tabled for the Kyoto Climate Summit in December. Given that neither the US nor Japan currently accepts the need for any reductions in greenhouse gas emissions before 2010, and with only 23 negotiating days left, the world is on course to fail to agree the urgent action necessary to prevent dangerous climate change. Dr PATRICK GREEN. Friends of the Earth International International Climate Negotiations

Futile fraud in Albanian poll

Sir: Last May I was privileged to be one of the two UK observers sent to monitor the Albanian parliamentary elections as part of the team from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Once we had witnessed the extent of voterigging and intimidation, a number of observers made the unprecedented move of announcing there and then that the elections were fundamentally flawed. I was asked to be their

spokesman. The events of the past few weeks have their origins in that rigged poll. It was so blatant, so naive, and so widespread, that few Albanians could have any further respect for

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their "elected" parliamentarians, or the security forces who openly supported the ruling Democratic Party. No wonder then, that when the ill-conceived pyramid schemes collapsed, the people should vent their anger against the

government.
The irony is that perhaps Sali Berisha was the best man to modernise his pitifully poor country. Many believe he would have won the elections last May without resorting to vote-rigging. Instead he, and his party, could not resist the temptation. He has now no legitimate right to stay, other than to form a coalition government with the opposition parties, dissolve parliament, and ensure that ensuing elections are free and fair. PAUL KEETCH Parliamentary Spokesman Hereford Liberal Democrats

What Christians owe to Jews

Hereford

Sir. Andrew Brown's article (Faith & Reason, 1 March), attacking Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks's endorsement of the "Judaeo-Christian tradition", deserves to be challenged.

There are of course many differences between the two major faiths, but plenty of common elements, and essences of Hebrew religion are found in the New Testament - not least in the

teachings of Jesus, and the Lord's

Boiling point Sir: Will all the water consumers who have to boil their water because of the cryptosporidium organism (report, 4 March) be

tradition at its best.

Mansfield College

Oxford

Supper, which is based on the

The Exodus traditions of

deliverance from oppression are

fundamental to Judaism, early

Christianity, and now liberation

status quo.
The Exodus stories were also

fundamental to the English Civil

War and the American Revolution

- Christians who saw themselves as

a New Israel. They also echo in the

words of Rabbi Abraham Joshua

Heschel, a leading American Jew.

Martin Luther King Jr is a sign that God

has not forsaken the United States of

America. God has sent him to us. His

presence is the hope of America. His

mission is sacred, his leadership of

supreme importance to every one of us

... I call upon every Jew to harken to

his voice, to share his vision, to follow

in his way. The whole future of Amer-

ica will depend upon the impact and the

influence of Dr King.
That is the Judaeo-Christian

The Rev CHARLES BROCK

when he noted that the Baptist

minister

theology, which a lot of people (including the Vatican) don't much

like because of the challenge to the

Passover celebrations.

compensated? The water companies are legally obliged to supply drinkable water, and it costs money to keep boiling water. **CWELLS** Ruislip Middleser

Honesty about growing up

Sir: No wonder so many young girls are suffering from anorexia and bulimia these days ("Why won't you tell me about tampons. Mummy?", 3 March). These girls are afraid to grow up, and have found a shocking way of holding on to their childhood.

Their mothers, meanwhile, are accomplices in this plot, terrified of taking responsibility for adult behaviour and the realities facing them in this world. Thus they present to their daughters an image of the adult world that is frightening and confusing.

My own mother told me, when I was around the age of eight, that I would begin to develop breasts. grow hair in several areas of my hody, and begin to menstruate. She then bought me both tampons and sanitary towels and showed me what I would have to do, should menstruating begin unexpectedly at school or some other social gathering; and she always knew when I had my period.

Both she and my father never failed to compliment me on what a lovely young lady I was growing into. They gave me confidence and realistic expectations of what adulthood was all about. I did much the same with my own daughter. never exaggerating the discomfort of period pain and never telling her horror stories of childbirth.

I also have a son, with whom I discussed the "facts of life" as and when he asked, so that by the time he was shaving, it was all a natural process of growing up and joining the adult world. And incidentally. why is it that we turn menstruation into such a "problem" area? Men tell me shaving, which in most cases must be done daily, is a huge bore. but they just get on with it.
Mrs ARIELLA LISTER
Hatch End. Middlesex

What a bargain!

Sir. I am much obliged to Gerald Dorey of Oxford (letter, 4 March) for being willing to buy my car for £1,500 on the understanding that, it I give him the £1.500 back, he will provide my family and me with the use of a good-quality car - in perpetuity. Would be kindly stop sheltering behind the relative anonymity of the letters page and publish his address, so that I can take him up on his kind offer?

(Perhaps he has not noticed that the transaction would make sense to him only if the car were worth a great deal more than £1,500. But if that's the case. I might be better advised to keep it.)
The Rev JEREMY CRADDOCK Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

Aretha's no softie

Sir. Your report on motorists' top 10 favourité tunes ("Drivers at éase with middle-of-the-road melodies" 3 March) fails to comment on the No 10 entry - Aretha Franklin's

"Respect". Far from being "easy-listening music", Ms Franklin's transformation of the Otis Redding number into an anthem of feminine self-assertion is far more of a "cutting-edge melody", despite its age, than anything Oasis or their counterparts have produced.

Could it be that female drivers favour "Respect" because that's exactly what they want (and so seldom get) from the sizeable number of male drivers who regard their car as a virility symbol? STEVE PILKINGTON Stockport, Cheshire

Fur coats come in from the cold

The popular image is of pretty animals kept in misery until a brutal death. But, says Richard North, the reality is tidy farms, serious investment and the best example of factory farming

growing business. The 6,000 female mink he has on his farm in Devon will be mated this month and by summer will have an average of five small minks - "kits" - each. Many of them are the quite rare Blue Iris, which fetched about \$50 each at auction last month. Around 40 of them are needed to make a coat for the "dumbanimals" of the anti-fur ads. Mr Cobbledick last year bought a mink farm in Denmark to double his production, and next hundreds of thousands of winter's harvest of pelts should. pounds worth of equipment with luck, gross him about £2m.

among the rows of sheds on his English farm, built up over 30 vears of riding a notoriously fickle market. But here, I can't blow my own trumpet". Worse than that, in England he knows he's a pariah. His family and the 10 people he employs face picketing and worse from rights protesters.

Wherever it is, mink production involves pretty little animals who live in small cages and are gassed to death aged about seven months. From such farms, 85 per cent of the world's mink is produced, about 45 per cent of it on Denmark's 2,600 mink forms and very little on Britain's nine. It is paraded on the fashion show catwalks of Milan and Frankfiret. With such images to pre-

owns a very fast- it is hardly surprising that Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, an American animal rights group) were able to persuade some of the world's leading models to protest against fur farming (though their doing so has not stopped several of them modelling its product since). Behind the evocative images.

there lies a more humdrum reality. Mike Cobbledick's farms are neat and tidy. They bear witness to serious investment, and not merely in the used to produce feed, or for the "I'm proud to be a mink annual process of treating the farmer", says Mr Cobbledick skins. The farms don't smell any



Mike Cobbledick: 'I'm proud to be a mink farmer'

ike Cobbledick sent to the public imagination, are inclined to, despite the mink's main diet being waste from the fish industry (only about 10 or at most 20 per cent is grain which might be used for human food). Mr Cobbledick's carcasses used to go for ren-dering and cattle feed, until the BSE scare. Now they go to landfill, but there are hopes that they will soon be part of the waste which fuels a bio-

digester producing gas. Walking between the rows of cages, it is not obvious what the tuss is about. The mink are lively but not frantic; inquisitive but not nervously eager. As one would expect in creatures whose skins will be so closely inspected, they appear to be in prime physical condition.

But few people ever get to see these mostly reassuring scenes, or would necessarily trust a cursory view of them anyway. Instead, they might get in touch with the Government's statutory independent advisers for an informed view. the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) - which includes vets and welfare campaigners - in 1989 reported on fur farming systems and said they "do not satisfy some of the most basic criteria ... for protecting the welfare of farm animals". FAWC's chairman then and now. Professor Colin Spedding, says the council felt "it would be very difficult to get it right". Mink (and fox, which we'll come to) were still wild

after "only" 50-60 generations of breeding in captivity. FAWC asked for further research to be undertaken by the trade before it would come to a conclusion as to what standards might be thought satisfactory. FAWC's reinforce Labour's insistence that it would allow no new fur farms to be licensed, as evidence of its general policy that fur farming should cease.

But this gloomy position looks less tenable in the light of work by Georgia Mason. an ethologist at Oxford University. let alone a deal of Continental work. Following studies on a British mink farm. Dr Mason says: "As far as factory farming goes, the mink are probably the hest example there is and the least cause for concern." True. on at least one farm Dr Mason has seen very prevalent behavioural problems, but she says: "I think they can be reduced but not totally abolished by proper husbandry". On five farms I saw none of the behaviour she pointed to.

Seen from a Danish per-spective, mainstream British prejudices seem rather odd. Danes buy more free-range eggs than the British, and are growing more fussy than most Britons about the way their milk and pork are produced. But most Danes seem wholly modern farmers find both swimming facilities in their

unfazed about mink farming. From the windows of Birger Christensen, perhaps Copenhagen's leading manufacturer and retailer of furs, Pia Rasmussen looks out on the world's first pedestrian street and sees income wearing fur. She says: We have hardly any protest at all. Oh, perhaps a little some

vears ago. But nothing since." The scenes of apparent contentment in Mr Cobbledick's Danish farm match those of his

farm in Devon (and he says both are typical of any mink farm in the West). In part they flow from the modern acceptance of the kinds of thing FAWC has talked about: the mink for concern 7 all have nest boxes and the cages allow the

animals to stand on their hind legs. Jan Elnif, associate professor of fur animal science at the Danish Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University says: "These animals spend 18-20 hours a day in the nest box, as we think they do in the wild if there's enough to eat." Mink are fierce and mostly solitary animals, but

mother and young do well if left together, and that young siblines also thrive in small groups. As to the notorious gassing, Professor Elnif points out that most farm animals suffer their worst stress being carted to a cart wheeled to their cage. He adds: "Video evidence says that when the animal comes in, it can't smell the gas. Within 20 seconds they lose consciousness

PRIESTLEY

and are clinically dead in two to five minutes. Moreover, as you take an animal out of its cage it might scream but **6** As far as

factory

least cause

that doesn't disturb the others." Mink are kept in wire cages, and farming goes, that includes the mink are the flooring. But and the same is true of battery hens - there is no they would prefer

a solid floor. Professor Elnif says: "Copenhagen University have taken wire and solid bases and allowed the mink to decide which to spend time on - but they spend equal time on either." However, solid floors become filthy and unhygienic very quickly. FAWC had suggested that mink, being semi-aquatic, might like to have

ful: "It doesn't swim like an otter. It can't see more than 30 centimetres in the water. It sits and watches for prey from the shore and then dives in for perhaps 10 seconds." The Danes a mink's cage bothers us but not the animal. Dr Mason is less

sure: she and a colleague, Jonathan Cooper, are researching minks' preferences, and find the animals quite keen on swimming. "But that's not to say they would miss not doing she says. "It may simply be a case of out of sight, out of mind. We'll have to try to find Denmark's leading authority

on mink farming, Knud Erik Heller, associate professor at the Zoological Institute at the University of Copenhagen, says we can certainly tell whether mink are feeling stress, and what's more have a good idea whether they experience "good" or "bad" stress. Broadly speaking, short periods of mild stress are rather good for an animal, but sustained stress can be very bad. "These animals feel a good deal of stress around the times of mating and weaning", he says. But they can be assumed to like the first and not the second, rather like humans, and rather as they would in the wild. Professor

Heller stresses that much of what kindly people might assume must be good for ammals may actually merely be good for the people wishing it so. "I honestly can't find any-thing to improve the condition of mink on farms".

here are no fox farms in Britain and very few in Denmark. Their mansome mink farmers say they wouldn't undertake it. The Danish Animal Welfare Society's vet, Enid Weber, says she has little complaint about mink farming but does not approve of farming foxes.

To the untutored, and possi bly anthropomorphising, eye there is something doggy and baleful about the way a caged fox returns one's stare. They can seem nervous.

However, things are improv-ing, especially with the provi-sion of a shelf which the fox can use as a retreat. Birthe Broberg. the senior veterinary officer at the Danish Ministry of Agriculture, says: "My experience is that before legislation was brought in you would see very barren cages and I felt that they weren't acceptable. But with the changes I thought I could see a difference in the fox. You didn't see the special behaviour of pacing and rolling around."

There is solid evidence that foxes respond well to being given a nest, and that handling when young helps them with human contact later. There is good evidence that foxes can be tamed, and thus perhaps made into surprisingly good candi-dates for factory farming.

The difference in view

between British and Danish feeling is soon to be tested. A standing committee of the Council of Europe is due to meet at the end of April to discuss an updated set of standards for the farming of furbearing animals. It is composed of vets from various agriculture ministries, with welfarists mostly British - as observers. An early draft enshrines the current industry best practice provisions for nests and han-

dling for foxes. The accord will probably face opposition from countries with little or no fur farming, such as France, which operates with what we might as well call "bystander virtue". The British are sympathetic to the antifarming case, but determined to try to broker as much improvement as possible. Should Labour win the forthcoming election, it is anyone's guess whether they would allow an agriculture minister to sign up to the convention in October, as currently planned.

Any agreement will probably not much dent the prejudice of many people that fur-farming, like fur-wearing, is too much of a luxury to deserve a decent hearing. None the less, it looks as though buying a mink coat is already, and buying a fox coat could soon be, about as morally challenging as tucking into a bacon sandwich. Even now, both are probably already less immoral than paying so little for an egg that it must be produced in a battery cage.

There's no disguising problem toenails



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FREEPHONE 0800 200 210

The same joke, and it has lasted well

was leafing through a brief biog of William Hogarth the other day, in case the subject should come up in conversation in this his should have to display some rudimentary knowledge of the man, and one thing in it brought me up short. It was an entry describing young Hogarth's sixth year, "1703. Family moves to St John's Gate, where Richard Hogarth (father) opens a Latinspeaking coffee house. The coffee house

as four years later poor Hogarth perc was in prison for debt, but I am not sure whether it was because the coffee was no good or because the obligation to talk in Latin was too daunting. It seems extraordinary to us today, when ancient Latin and Greek are not normally heard outside the classroom and not much inside, that there was a time when Latin was spoken as a colloquial tongue long after the last Roman had vanished, but it

is not so long ago that Latin was considered necessary to

a gentleman.

apparently did not prosper,

And it has not entirely vanished. There was a Radio 4 programme presented by Jeremy Nicholas not so long ago. which looked at Latin today and discovered at least one person who still talks Latin on a daily basis as part of his work. He was a jovial American working at the Vatican whose job it was to communicate with Catholic dioceses all round the world, and who often found that his only common language with a Latvian or Paraguayan

cardinal was Latin. He did not speak Latvian or Spanish, and the man at the other end of the line did not speak English, Ergo, he used Lutin us his lingua franca. Well, you don't have to be very smart to realise that I

managed to get three Latin words into that last sentence without anyone's eyebrows going up. Latin is still very much all around us. It may be a dead language, but its hones come to the surface every time we dig a bit. For instance, there was a good Latin joke in the Jeremy Nicholas programme which I think most people would still understand, and I will test



Miles Kington

that theory by bringing you Here is the joke.

Apparently there was a school which had to change its motto from Latin to English. The motto in English was "I hear, I see, I learn". Fair enough. Unfortunately, in Latin the motto came out as "Audio, Video, Disco"

Donnish chuckles. End of looked it up in the

Of course there are Latin phrases which we use every day without thinking it strange, such as "status quo", or "anno domini", or "de

expressions, often abbreviations, which we use daily without perhaps realising that they have a Latin origin. Eg "Eg". (exempli gratia), "ic" (id est), "cv" (curriculum vitae), and 'viz" (videlicet). Other languages tend not to do this. The German for "viz" is not "viz" but "dh", or "dass Heisst". The German for "eg" is not "eg" but "zB" or "zum Beispiel". I don't think German or French even have an abbreviation. Latin or native, for "ie", but we love our Latin abbreviations, even if we couldn't tell you what

facto". But there are other

the original means. This is especially true of the language of footnotes, which is full of expressions like "op cit" and "qv" and "cf" and "passim" and "sic" I had always wondered why the abbreviation for "compare" was "cf" until just now I did what I should have done 30 years ago and

dictionary. It is short for "confer" which is presumably the Latin for "compare". But the one I have always been wariest of is "ibid". short for "ibidem", meaning

"in the same place", and this is because I once was present at a most embarrassing moment whose memory I treasure even now. I used to share weekly French tutorials at university with a fellow undergraduate called Martin, and one week we had both prepared essays on the great but not very interesting French poet, Alfred de Vigny. It was Martin's turn to read out his essay. The tutor and I sat there halfasieep until Martin, talking about some poetic trick of de Vigny's, said:This particular poetic

device is used a lot in Ibid,

At this the tutor joited

awake. "Ibid, eh? And what pray is Ibid?" said the tutor. "Oh. it's the title of a long poem by Alfred de Vigny," said Martin, obviously surprised

that the tutor was ignorant of it. "It's very good. They're always quoting from it." The tutor glanced across at me to make sure that he wasn't hearing things. I raised an eyebrow. We both exchanged a silent but very enjoyable guffaw. "Carry on," said the tutor.

المكذا من الأصل

A glimpse at the dark heart of Toryism

opsi The veil slipped a lit-tie yesterday and we glimpsed the underbelly of Tory Man - David Evans, motor-mouth MP for Luton, naked as nature intended. In an unguarded interview to sixthformers, he talked of black bastards and his Labour opponent's bastard children. He said absurdly that the Birmingham Six had killed hundreds, and that Virginia Bottomley, dead from the neck up, only got her job because she's a woman. No, no, that's only "dear

lovable David" or "that perfectly horrible little squit" at it again, said assorted Tory voices hastening to explain away his incorrectness". Come, come, every party has its buffoons, all part of the rich warp and weft of Westminster life - where's your sense of proportion? Where's your sense of humour? These mainstream Tory voices imply that I am a typical boring blue-stocking humourless Independent type -You Islington chablis socialists," said one, "you are far too sensitive about politically incor-rect language." Of course they deplore every word that Evans said - disgusting, disgraceful, but, well, that's Evans for you: "Salt of the earth - has his finger on the working-class pulse.

They love him." Imagine if some Ken Livingstone had said anything a frac-tion as "off message". Think of

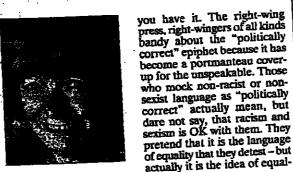
the outcry at some mild heresy such as putting a penny on the income tax to pay for the NHS - Mawhinney would have it up there on posters faster than you could say loony left. A cry would go up that the militants are creeping out from under the Blair bed. As for Labour, they'd have had anyone a quarter as outrageous as Evans out on his ear by yesterday: the Tories will do nothing about their Mil-

No, it's just silly old David. But is it? In the lobbies and the corridors, the bars, clubs and conferences, and all the places in which Tories meet you hear the words, the phrases and above all the ideas that those words reveal. Wogs and bimbos, tarts and nig-nogs, chinkles, bits of skirt and bits of fluff (they are old, remember - average age of Tory members is 64). We all know ... that Caribbeans are lazy dopeheads and everyone on benefit's a scrounger. We all know ... fatherless children all grow up deliquent and teenage girls get pregnant on purpose to get flats. We all know all assuum-seekers are frauds and all young all asylum-s

blacks are muggers.

Now none of us talks in private the way we speak and write for public consumption. Jokes, shorthand, slang, there are a hundred things we say to our friends that we phrase differently for strangers. But not those words, not those ideas.

Interestingly, every Tory I telephoned yes-terday, even on the liberal wing, used the phrase "politically correct" at some point in the politically correct, do we?" or "I know he's conservative clab full of old, sour, mean, white awfully politically incorrect but ..."—and there faces up and down the land.



Polly Toynbee Commentator of the Year

David Evans embarrasses other Tories like the breaking of wind in a

immigration law promised by Labour - but John Major snubbed him, determined not to play the race card (his last remaining loincloth of genuine decency - though after him. what vileness comes next?). When I talked to Budgen, he was angry: "Strict control of immigration is important - but it only comes on page 480 of our election guide. Go and ask my people in Wolverhampton what they think. It was very silly of the Prime Minister to give in public place

to the politically correct lobby."

John Carlisle MP, never knowingly outflanked on the right, praised Evans yesterday:
"More of that kind of talk would get us back the working class vote. Let's call a spade a spade. When Margaret Thatcher spoke of immigrants swamping us, she struck a chord. You should have heard my taxi driver talking about the Huns and being pushed around by a load of foreigners. Ask the chap in the public bor and he'll tell you shout analyse and he'll tell you shout analyse. lic bar and be'll tell you about asylum-seekers

ity they deplote.

So have we glimpsed into the dark heart of Conservatism - or

is it just "maverick", "one off",

"our man on the terraces"

Evans? Take immigration, for

instance. By chance yesterday in the Commons Nicholas Bud-

gen urged the Prime Minister

to attack two liberalisations of

and lots more on those lines. On the other wing, Edwina Currie (whose chances of re-election are vanishing by the day) was in free-talking mood yesterday, scathing about the wrong tone her party strikes: out of touch, out of date, with no notion of human rights, race, gender, equality or gay issues. "MPs think social issues don't count. Their tone and attitude is 1947, not 1997. They think women are all wives and mothers, and the only ones they tolerate in the Commons are unthreateningly stapid, like Dame Jill Knight and Lady Olga Maitland. They don't understand the world has changed, and they cause offence whenever they talk about single mothers, marriage or divorce. The Tory party has driven the voters away."

cent Tories who will not talk race: black bastard talk is vulgar and loutish. But you don't have to scratch them to find that they are all indeed conservatives, and conservatives are not liberals. David Evans embarrasses them like the breaking of wind in a public place, because it is what so many of them do themselves in private. And if the more fastidious of them do not, then they tolerate talk and jokes like that in virtually every dwindling

he Bishop of Birmingham seems a remarkable fellow. He appears fantastically unbothered by the scething hatreds and accusations of racism that have been flying around his King's Norton parish for the past couple of years, since the Rev Eve Pitts was taken on as part of the ecclesiastical team.

و هكذا من الأصل

The trouble was revealed when the Rev Pitts complained in church that, almost from the time of her appointment, she had been treated as "a doormat" by her senior colleague: she assumed the bishop would support her. but found only a typed letter of resignation waiting for her signature at the episcopal

When asked about the matter, the Bish assured the press his turbulent vicar was a "talented pastor" and that, if she would resign quietly, she would get her full stipend and could keep her parish house.

For a leading cleric to assume this would be any comfort to a person who had pursued her vocation through a thousand obstacles, to become the country's first black lady vicar, seems howlingly insensitive. Next day, the Bish announced his engagement to Ms Sabme Bird, with the words "We are both surprised and delighted by this turn of events", as if it were happening to somebody else. How detached from reality must you be, to be surprised by your own

But then Bishops of Birmingham have always been a little wayward. Philip Hoare. who has just finished writing a study of the celebrated "47,000 perverts" trial in 1918, points out that the Bishop of Birmingham at the time was one Russell Wakefield, an upstanding chap, pillar of the Established Church, who presided over the "Cinema Commission of Enquiry" in 1917, set up by the National Council of Public Morals to look into loose behaviour on

Possibly fired by images of celluloid smut, the upstanding his crozier at Marie Stopes, the shockingly controversial women's rights campaigner and contraception impresario, who was on the commission representing the Society of Authors.

The Bishop was so devoted to me, he implored me to marry him and said he would give up being a Bishop



Oration negation: Luciano Benetton, above, said he was glad to have started a debate. So did Noel Gallagher, below left, and so did Michael Bogdanov, below right



if I would only promise," Ms Stopes wrote to Oscar Wilde's paramour. Lord Alfred Douglas. "But of course he was far too old for me. What on earth do they put in the holy water in Brummieland?

aybe the Bishop would have benefited from a little chat with the Almighty, and I don't mean prayer, or meditation or mystical communion. I mean a conversation. That is what an American writer called Neale Donald Walsch claims to have done; and the resulting colloquy. Conversations with God, is a

best-seller.
Mr Walsch's "uncommon dialogue" with the Almighty began in 1992 when he was writing an irritable letter to Him (as you do) complaining about his lot in menopausal terms: "Why isn't my life working?" ... "What have I done to deserve a life of such continuing struggle?" To his writing by itself and God, he claims, replied. Walsch says the answers from on high came fluently, as if he were taking dictation, and went on for three years.

What kind of conversationalist does God turn out to be? He alternates



snappy interchanges, like Socratic dialogues, with long urades about creation, death, the soul and how to avoid heing a Bad Person. He talks about "damage limitation" and optimum advantage says "no way" a lot and quotes from "your Shakespeare". He sprinkles his discourse with camp French italies ("n'est-ce pas?") and makes dull little jokes about hell - Good grief," cries Walsch after one sally, "you're a regular comedian." "It took you this long to find that out?" God enquires witheringly. You

looked at the world lately? God is surprisingly liberal about sex ("If I didn't want you to play certain games, I wouldn't have given you the toys') but as disobliging as a Chancellor on Budget Day when it comes to booze and fags ("If you've ever taken alcohol into your body, you have very little will to live"). Oh and the Creator of All Things explains that yeah. there is life on other planets. sure, they've visited the earth and yup, they're looking at us now - but (displaying, for a spiritual being, an unexpected degree of publishing savvy) He can't say any more because it's all going in a

follow-up volume. "This does not seem.

The Bish offers a deal, and God speaks out on damagelimitation, aliens and the demon drink

walsh

Walsch comments, with masterly understatement. of this self-created pile of bollocks, "like what a communication with God would feel like". The Redeemer ripostes, in Woody Allen-sprache: "You want bells and whistles?" I'll see what I can arrange.

ast year Michael Bogdanaov attacked theatre critics, and now four of them are to direct plays at the Battersea Arts Centre in London, thus risking the scorn and critical abuse that are their own stock-in-trade. Speaking on the Today programme. Bogdanov said: "Of course I welcome this news. I'm glad to be able to initiate a debate into ..." I can't remember what it was supposed to be into - something like "Creativity and Critical Responsibility , I expect. But I'd stopped listening by then.

having cut myself with a razor out of sheer irritation. And what was it Noel Gallagher said, when they asked him about the fuss he had caused with his pronouncement that taking ecstacy was like having a cup of tea in the morning? "I'm vurry glad," he intoned, negotiating his way uncertainly through this syllabic minefield. "to have init - inish - initiated a debate on the danger of drugs ... And lastly, if you can stand it, there is Luciano Benetton, the supersmooth cape di capo of the Italian clothing dynasty. When I interviewed him last year, and asked about one of his bad-taste advertisements (the bloodstained army jacket one? the copulating horses one? the HIV one?), he replied: "No we're not worried by the public's

have initiated a debate about Bosnia/ racism/ Aids ... Are you as tired as I am of all this debate-initiation! It is now the standard response from anybody whose unprompted response would have been "Yes I was a complete pillock to have done/said/published that. wasn't 1?".

reaction. We are happy to

♦he Football Bung trial has been left hanging in mid-air, like a freezeframed goalkeeper; but while it has gone on, a curious levity had prevailed. This is partly due to the judge. Mr Justice Tuckey, who punctuated the action with strange utterances. "OK let's break for lunch." he said one day to nobody in particular, for in the vernacular of the Zimbabwean trial, let's grab a

graze ... Summing up the evidence of Bruce Grobbelaar's former friend Chris Vincent, who contacted the tabloids about the goalie's alleged iniquities, he waggishly noted: "Mr Vincent has been called every name under the sun - although that's rather an unfortunate way of putting it ...

The hilarity seemed to spread to Mr Grobbelaar. The balding net-diver was leaving court one day when a fan from the gallery plucked his sleeve. "Can you and I play golf when this is all over, Bruce?" he asked, "I don't think so," said Grobbelaar, "I can only see myself playing immediate future. "Oh come now," said the fan. "I believe one of those open prisons has a lovely nine-hole course ..." Thanks for the moral support, growled

The success story that is Europe

The more people know about the EU, the more they are in favour of it, argues Giles Radice Netherlands than to China, withdrawal costs jobs." Indeed,

to highlight the advantages of British membership of the European Union (EU). British membership may be the official policy of the three main parties. But that does not deter a sustained barrage of often inaccurate criticism by politicians and much of the media, nor does it encourage the provision of accurate information about its benefits. Our campaign aims to

heip fill the gap.
Opinion poll after opinion
poll has shown that the majority of the British people are anxiious to find out more about the European Union and what it means for them. Mori research for the European Movement reveals that only 14 per cent

oday the European describe themselves as having "a good knowledge" of the EU, while only 7 per cent know about the single market. Signor nificantly, those with good knowledge of the EU favour staying in by a margin of three to one. The majority of those with poor knowledge back leaving. In other words, the more people know about the European Union, the more they support Britain being part of it.

Europe 97 will explain why nine out of 10 business people think we should stay in the EU. The key point is that Europe is now where Britain sells its products. In 1995, 58 per cent of our exported goods went to the EU. We sell more to Germany than to the US, more to France and Belgium than to the

South Korea, Hong Kong, Indonesia and the other Asian "tigers" put together. And it is mainly because of British membership of the EU that so many big foreign companies have invested in the UK. As Ian Gibson, chief executive of Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK). puts it: "Europe is our home market and the foundation of

When business prospers, so do British living standards. As the TUC has pointed out, millions of jobs now depend on the sales of British and Britishbased foreign firms in the single European market. Many of these would be at risk if Britain left the EU. Niall Fitzgerald, chairman of Unilever, has warned: "Careless talk about

one of the most significant developments of the past few months is the concern about the consequences of British isolation in Europe expressed by leaders of major companies, including BP, British Aerospace, BAT, Glaxo, Guinness, Northern Foods, Shell Transport and Trading, Unilever and Vauxhall, while big foreign investors, such as Rover, Sicmens and Toyota, have warned about the dangers of Britain being permanently outside a strong European currency.

The benefits are not only economic. It is obvious for example, that pollution does not recognise national frontiers. So the EU has introduced a set of common standards, from which we in Britain gain. Ten years ago

half of British bathing beaches failed to meet EU standards. Today nine out of 10 fly the blue flag to show that they

meet them. Europe 97 will be reminding people that the EU, by healing the bitter conflict between France and Germany, has helped to keep peace in West-ern Europe for half a century. the longest period of peace for 300 years. War memorials in our cities, towns and villages bear witness to the cost to Britain of the European civil wars of the first part of this century. The political case can be put

another way. As part of the EU. the world's largest trading bloc. Britain has greater clout. For example, the 1993 agreement to free up world trade, in which the EU negotiated as one bloc.

With membership of the EU. the British are becoming de facto citizens of Europe. In the single market, consumers increasingly buy Continental goods, and jobs depend on success on the Continent. We travel, take holidays, study (last year, 26,825 students studied on the Continent as part of the Erasmus scheme), increasingly work and even live (as nearly 1 million people do) on the mainland. Europe 97 will be reminding people that, despite the persuasive anti-European rhetoric. Europe is becoming a

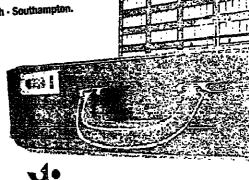
British space. Giles Radice is Labour MP for North Durham and chairman of the European Movement.

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The sick truth about those political gaffes To explain some of the antics of politicians you need a good medical dictionary, says Glenda Cooper

thing but a medical condition.

A doctor could see that these

And everyone now knows dence for this. Does this not

ave you noticed how many politicians lately seem unable to control what they are saying? Political analysts often tell us they have made a "gaff" or are playing some sophisticated power same. But could they simply be ill?

Tourette's Syndrome is a rare disease of which two common manifestations are shouting obscenities and making inappropriate comments. Leafing through a medical textbook, this suddenly seems ominously familiar, Is David Evans, previously seen as an obnoxious

right-wing Tory, in reality a misunderstood type suffering from the syndrome? Looking back at the news

coverage this week, he might not be the only one. What about our Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, most recently in the news after his face pas over the single European currency? His friends - well, John Major may describe his remarks as a "slip" or a "mistake", but such obscenities as the Scottish parliament or the single currency fall from his lips all too frequently for us to see them as any-

two politicians are not alone in their suffering. Look around the House of Commons - perhaps itself a victim of Sick Building Syndrome - and many others appear to be medically

challenged as well.

Are the Euro-sceptics suffering from Munchhausen's Syndrome by Proxy - a syndrome whose sufferers inflict harm on other people to gain attention? Sound familiar? Certainly they have succeeded in damaging the credibility and

On the opposition benches. there is an increasing danger of

Paradise Syndrome - the debilitating feeling that things are going so well that they can only get worse. The polls may show that Labour has an unassailable lead, but all Austin Mitchell, MP for Grimsby, can do is gloomily mention Tony Blair in the same breath as Kim Il Sung and describe himself as a "squashed hedgehog on the road to the manifesto".

describes the condition affecting some visitors to Jerusalem who identify with, and temporarily believe, that they are a major figure such as St John the Baptist or the Messiah. Does this not remind you of Sir James Goldsmith, who since he moved to France has seen himself as a British Charles de Gaulle, ready to lead us out of Europe and

into the Promised Land? Finally there is de Clerambault's Syndrome - a form of delusional erotomania where a drome anyway.

exactly describe John Major's relationship with the electorate? But there is another possibility. He could be suffering from Option Paralysis, the inability to make a decision [such as the date of the general election] when faced with an excessive range of choices. But don't try to cure yourself, John. After months of waiting for the election, we're all suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syn-

business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

BAT hit for £160m to cover pollution claims

Tom Stevenson City Editor

BAT stunned the City vesterday with an unexpected £160m provision against the future cost of long-running pollution claims, the extension of an olive branch to the anti-smoking lobby and a renewal of hopes that the tobacco to financial services group was planning a demerger of its two main businesses. The shares, a hostage to sentiment for much of the past year, tumbled another 18.5p to close at 531p vesterday.

In a dramatic climbdown from the adversarial rhetoric that has dogged recent tobacco-related litigation in the US. BAT said yesterday it would be prepared to strike a deal with lawyers representing former smokers if they came up with a 'sensible proposal".

The move opens the way for a multi-billion-pound settle-ment that would have been inconceivable until an onslaught of litigation in the past year made the tobacco companies' hawkish position on compensation increasingly untenable.

Martin Broughton, chief ex-ecutive, blamed the spiralling cost of fighting court cases and the impact of the escalating litigation on BAT's share price for the apparent capitulation. He said BAT's US tobacco subsidiary. Brown & Williamson, spent \$100m (£62m) on legal fees last year, up from \$60m in 1995, and he expected the figure to continue rising.

News of BAT's new-found

willingness to accommodate its

opponents came as it an-

nounced a sharp slowdown in

profits growth last year, with the

hit by an unexpected £160m extra provision to cover the like- gation. He said the sort of cost of old pollution cases. BAT capped the day's revelations with a hint that a demerger of its tobacco and financial services operations was firmly back on the agenda in the group's attempt to return to a growth tack in shareholder value. Mr Broughton said BAT had hired two firms of lawyers in the

admitted that paying up to \$100m a year would leave shareholders better off. BAT's shares closed lower as the market digested the unex-US to advise it on the process pected pollution charge which of getting congressional approval for any settlement. But Eagle Star assesses its likely

der all present and future liti-

numbers flying around the press

- some reports have suggested

plaintiffs are seeking a \$6bn-a-year payment from the industry

were wide of the mark, but he

group's Eagle Star to Allied he insisted a deal would only be liability in respect of pollution Dunbar financial services arm acceptable if it drew a line uncases stretching back to the 1960s. Mr Bronghton admitted it was not possible to say whether there would be further

He declined to comment on whether BAT had held discussions with Commercial Union on a possible merger of its financial services arm with CU or whether the putative deal would have been the prelude to a break up of its two main

BAT has been under pressure for some time to split its tobacco

and insurance arms which have no apparent synergies.

Pre-tax profits in the year to

December increased by 5 per cent to £2.50bn from £2.38bn in 1995, which compared with a 26 per cent rise in profits the previous year. Earnings per share rose an even more modest 2 per cent to 48.6p (47.7p) but the well-covered dividend increased 8 per cent to 26p. A foreign income dividend increased the effective

value of the payout by 3.5p.
Within the group result, tobacco made further progress after its strong performance in

1995, with profits rising 7 per cent in local currency terms to £1.63bn. Volumes increased by 4 per cent despite a continuing slowing of demand in the US and world market share increased to 12.8 per cent.

Financial services, which takes in the Farmers business in America, slipped 3 per cent to £1.02bn but stripping out the pollution provision, there was an underlying 16 per cent increase in life and investment profits and a £22m rise in general insurance profit to £686m.

Comment, page 19

Co-op

rejects

Regan's

advance

Andrew Regan's audacious at-tempt to buy some of the non-food interests of the Co-op

movement received a big set-

back yesterday when the Co-operative Wholesale Society

firmly rejected his approach.

The 31-year-old entrepre-

neur, who controls the tiny in-

vestment vehicle Lanica Trust,

had hoped to woo the old-

fashioned movement with the

But the Co-operative Whole-

Vige! Cope

Sterling bumps against ceiling as rates stay put

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The pound humped up repeatedly against its old lower limit in the exchange rate mechanism without breaking through in the 24 hours up until trading closed in London vesterday.

The currency's thwarted bid to pass the psychological barrier of DM2.78 came as all the signs were that Kenneth Clarke. Chancellor of the Exchequer, had resisted Bank of England advice at yesterday's monetary meeting to raise

UK economist at investment bank Nikko.

Neil MacKinnon at Citibank predicted that it was only a matter of time, "It will have another bash at testing the DM2.78 level in the very short term and will probably go beyond it."

The health of the British economy compared with the test of Europe and investors expectation that a Labour government will raise the level of interest rates after the general election help explain the strength of the pound.

Virtually none of the City exinterest rates.

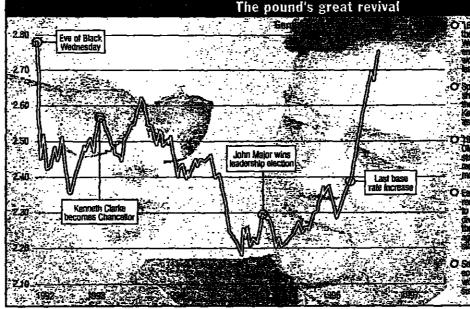
Sterling has been up against the ceiling several times in the before then. "The chance of a

Geoffrey Dicks at NatWest Markets.

'Any narrowing of Labour's lead in the polls would be seen as a negative for the pound." said Mr MacKinnon. In a reversal of the traditional pattern. the financial markets expect a tougher interest rate policy under Labour.

Investors also see a greater chance that a Labour government would take the pound into the single currency. That would diminish its current attractiveness as a safe haven from any possible turbulence related to the transition to European Monetary Union.

Economists foresee the exchange rate remaining strong until either British growth slows



down or the Continent catches up. But one warned yesterday that the pound would be falling at a time when inflation would

be on the increase anyway.

The strong pound will bein to unwind next year, when it will reinforce increasing inflation," said Andrew Sentance, director of economic

forecasting at the London Business School.

The economy's strong per-formance would lead to higher inflation, but with a long delay, he told a seminar at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research in London yeswere "speed limits" on how fast the economy could grow with-

out triggering inflation. Although economists are divided over the need for a rise in interest rates now, a majority forecast that inflation will be above its 25 per cent target at the end of this year and next year. The higher exchange rate is expected to reduce inflation below what it would otherwise

have been only in the short term. The pound closed down slightly at DM2.7590 in London yesterday. After another strong start to trading on Wall Street, shares in London reached a new record. The FTSE 100 index

Cadbury Schweppes could afford a £1bn to £2bn

equisition according to Dominic Cadbury, chakman, writes Nigel Cope. Mr Cadbury said the soft

group had the firepower for such a deal following

the £623m sale of its 50

per cent stake in Coca-

Beverages which was

completed last month.

"The company has more flexibility for a deal though

£2bn might be stretching it a little," Mr Cadbury said. He added that there was

nothing imminent that the

company was planning. He

Sunderland, the new chief

Separately, the company is

incentive programme and

calculate payments using

total shareholder returns

rather than just earnings

by the remuneration

to shareholders at the

next annual meeting.

per share growth. The changes have been agreed

committee and will be put

gement's long-term

executive, reported a 16

was speaking as John

tax profits to £592m.

looking to alter the

Cola Schweppes

prospect of a £500m deal.

sale Society snubbed his overtures following its regular monthly board meeting yester-day. "For purposes of clarifica-tion, the CWS board confirmed that CWS has not entered into any discussions with Mr Regan rose by just over 2 points to 4,360.1. or Lanica in respect of any of its business interests and has no

intention of doing so."
The Co-op's refusal to meet Mr Regan compounds the embarrassment of the affair. Lanica Trust's shares have been suspended since last month when news of its intentions were leaked to a Sunday newspaper. There was further controversy yesterday when rumours swirled that HSBC James Canel was set to resign as Lanica's bro-

kers. This was later denied. The Stock Exchange declined to comment on Lanica's share suspension. The company's brokers admitted the shares had been suspended for longer than anticipated and said: "We would hope that the shares would be relisted in the near future."

Lanica's shares have proved a volatile investment and soared 31p to £19.50 in mid-February before they were suspended. The shares stood at 116p last September when Mr Regan bought a controlling stake in what was then called New Guernsey Investment Trust.

The Stock Exchange has refused to elaborate in its conversations with the company. only saying it has not launched a full-scale investigation. Analysts say that even if Lan-

ica's tilt at the Co-op colossus proves unsuccessful, a shake-up of its operations is becoming increasingly likely. It sprawling interests include farming, supermarkets, department stores, estate agencies, travel Investment column, page 20 agencies and funeral parlours.

past 24 hours without quite rate rise before the election is making it," said Simon Briscoe, remote in the extreme," said Disbelief as Sir Bryan joins C&W

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Senior British Telecom executives were vesterday said to have reacted with surprise to the appointment of Sir Bryan Carsberg, the former telephones regulator, to the board of Cable & Wireless' planned £5bn cable group.
Sir Bryan, who from 1984 to

1992 headed the watchdog, Oftel, is to be one of three outside non-executive directors on the 13-member board of C&W Communications. He was responsible for moves to free up the industry, culminating in the end of the telephones duopoly between BT and Mercury in 1991.

The new group will be formed out of the merger of Mercury, C&W's UK subsidiary, with Bell Cablemedia. Nynex CableComms and the British operations of Videotron, The merger has been seen as a fandmark step in providing tougher competition for BT in telephony services and BSkyB in the pay-TV business.

Last night a BT spokesman declined to comment on Sir-Bryan's move. But another industry source said: "There's likely to be a sense of disbelief in BT about this, For Sir Bryan to join this company so soon after leaving Oftel appears to be insensitive, to say the least. No doubt he will use his knowledge of Oftel to benefit C&W."

However, Sir Bryan, who is a friend of BT's chairman. Sir Iain Vallance, brushed off the comments. "I notice Norman Tebbit didn't wait this long before joining BT's board," he said, pointing out that it was almost

FISE 100 3 3 Bow Jones

4360 10

4678 60

2156 50

2359 12

2128 32

6585 82

18273 51

13410 76

five years since he left Oftel. Lord Tebbit joined BT as a nonexecutive director in 1987, the same year he left the Thatcher government and just two years after departing from the Department of Trade and Industry, where he had played a key role in BT privatisation. Sir Bryan, who joined the

board of Nynex CableComms last year, said he was delighted at the job offer. He said: "I'm a great believer in this deal. It will provide really strong competition which has taken a while to get going in the cable industry since the early years. I have said many times that it has suffered from too much tragmentation and have supported moves towards consolidation." His salary and workload have vet to be decided.

C&W described the appointment as a "great coup" for who joined the group last year from the US. The other two outside non-executives are Valerie Gooding, managing director of Bupa, and John Keenan, a director of Grand Metropolitan.

The C&W Communications board will have just a single executive director. He is Graham Widlace, the new chief executive poached from Granada, while Mr Brown will be non-executive chairman. A further eight nonexecutives will represent the main shareholders in the venture. A separate executive board will be responsible for day-to-day matters. Three directors have so far been an-nounced, including Mr Wallace, but C&W declined to give a target for further appointments.

Comment, page 19

STOCK MARKETS

-0 0

+0.1

-16

+33 10 +0 5 291 27 -1 6

-39 33

Day's change Change(%) 1996/97 Righ 1996/97 Low Yield(%)

2156.50

2356 22

2128.32

7067,46

13868,24

3632 30 3.66

4015.30 3.36

1816 60 3 60

1954 06 2.90

1791 95 3.54

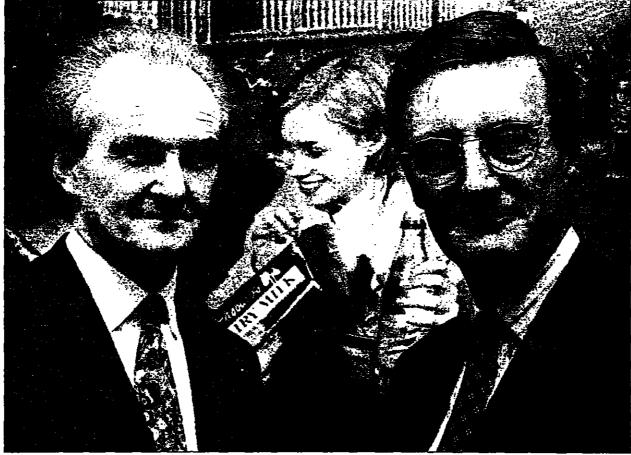
5032 94 1.96

10204 87 3.17†

2253.36 1 48†

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Cadbury Schweppes beverages sale provides firepower to fuel £1bn-plus acquisition deal



Profits perk: John Sunderland, chief executive (left), and chalrman Dominic Cadbury, announcing a £592m pre-tax gain Photograph: FT

T&N to cut global jobs after £388m loss

T&N, the automotive components group, was left reeling from a series of blows yesterday after unveiling plans to axe an expected 2.500 jobs from its worldwide operations alongside a record £388m loss for last year. It also emerged from Ger-many that a key 24.9 per cent stake in Kolbenschmidt, a leading German pistons manufacturer which T&N has been

Mosey Market Rates

Germany 3,19

5,34

0,50

5.81

Process Garage (a) Garage A. Falls

16 4.4

to a private group. T & N shares fell 3p to 156.5p yesterday. The job cuts came in the wake of competition and "operational inefficiencies" in the group's pistons and brake lin-

Long Bood (%) New Ago

A55000 Bift Ports 306 12,5

40 Compass Group 715 27 5 39 Bat Industries 531 18 5

ings businesses. The group has sel aside £15m to cover up to 1.500 redundancies in the current year and expects a further £25m charge in its 1997 figures for what analysts forecast will be a further reduction of 1,000 in

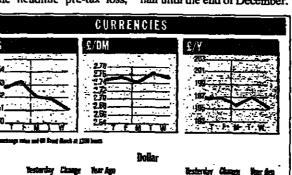
INTEREST RATES

Sir Colin Hope, chairman, said there would only be a modest number of job cuts in the UK, with continental Europe, which has the biggest cost problem, bearing the brunt

of the reduction. Underlying operating margins at the group slid from 11 per cent to 9.1 per cent last year. Sir Col-in said the objective was to get them above 10 per cent again. The headline pre-tax loss,

which compares with profits of £120m last time, was broadly in line with expectations following T&N's decision to make a £515m charge to draw a line under its long-running asbestos liabilities. Sir Colin said he was "relaxed"

about the sale of the Kolbenschmidt shares to Rheinmetall, a private automotive components business, despite the fact that they were held under option by Commerzbank on T&N's be-half until the end of December.



Hestorday Change Year Ago \$ (Landon) 1 6098 -0.74c 1.5278 £ (London) 0.6212 +0.28 0.6545 \$ (N York) 1 6110 +0,85c 1.5305 DM (London) 1,7113 +0.19of 1,4789 ¥ (London) 195 398 -Y1,611 160 605 ¥ (London) 121.380 -Y0.445 105.125 98.1 -0.4 83,6 1<u>04.1 unch 95.6</u> OTHER INDICATORS

destinately they's chig four ages beden Latent Yr Ago Mont Figs Oll Brent S 19.52 +0.74 17.92 RPI - 146.0 13 Mar 154.4 352.30 -10.45 393.30 GDP 109.7+2.6pc 107.0 25 Apr

House prices on the rise again

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

House prices rose last month, confirming the "modest recovery" in the housing market, Halifax Building Society reorted yesterday.

The increase in February folowed a drop in prices the previous month. This traned out to have been a one-off adjustment for the big gains at the endof last year, the society said.
The housing market is con-

tinuing to recover at a moderate pace. The annual rate of house price inflation is in line with our forecast of 7 per cent for the fourth quarter of 1997," it said.

The increase in the 12 months to February was 6.8 per cent, down from 7.1 per cent in January. The average house price now stands at £66,612. There were sharp fluctuations

month-to-month in the price of new housing, Halifax said. In addition, prices paid by first-time buyers jumped by 2.1 per cent in February following. a 2 per cent fall the previous month.

The Halifax figures were

Nationwide's house price index. Last week it reported a 0.7 per cent rise in February, but put the annual rate of inflation at a higher - and rising - rate of 8.5

per cent. Although mortgage lenders are keen to play down the danin the housing market, some economists think house price inflation might climb into double digits later this year. It is already well past this point in Greater

London. Higher earnings growth, along with the prospect of income tax cuts next month and windfalls of free building society shares later in the year, are likely to boost house purchas-

In addition to the effects of high consumer confidence and pent-up demand to move house after the long slump in the market, some parts of the country are experiencing a severe shortage of homes for sale.

Ande. Consu evenu

Last week Nationwide said this was "causing upward pressure on prices in certain sectors of the market and frustrating



FTSE 100

FTSE 250

FTSE 350

Help York

Hong Kong

FTSE SmallCap

FTSE All-Stare



The effect during the years of transition is that we will pay twice - once through our taxes for those already in retirement

and a second time by paying the funding costs of future pensions for those joining the workforce'

Co-op reject Regardadvan

Why not abolish the state pension altogether? Funding the state pension goes some way long as there is such a yawning gap between to solving the problem, for at least future the expectations on both sides. The America solving the problem of the expectations of both sides.

To misquote a famous advertisement for lager, "It's bold, but not that bold". Billed as the Government's big election idea, the planned pensions shake-up is not, when examined closely, as radical as it seems at first flush. Nor are its effects on the public finances as great, either in the short or long term, as

might be thought.
What the Government could and perhaps should have done was to abolish the state pension altogether for those under the age of 25 and made the provision of private pensions compulsory, subject, of course, to the usual safety net. What is proposed, notwithstanding Labour's siren warnings, falls a long way short of this uncompromising but elo-quent and rather more realistic approach to

The essence of these proposals is not an abolition of the minimum state pension at all, but a privatisation of it; the money still comes from the government but the pension becomes funded rather than paid out of current government revenues.

The effect during the years of transition from a pay-as-you-go to a funded minimum state pension is that we will pay twice - once through our taxes for those already in retirement and a second time by paying the funding costs of future pensions for those

joining the workforce.

According to Andrew Dilnot of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, the accommunity effect of this phenomenon on the public finances would be approaching £2bn annu-

ally after 10 years, equivalent to 1p on the basic rate of income tax.

العكدا من الأصل

This will, to some extent, be offset by the proposed reversal in the tax treatment of pensions. The Government wants to make voluntary pension contributions payable out of net income, rather than gross, the quid pro quo being that pension income would be tax free. In itself, this is a reasonable enough thing since it will put pensions on an equal footing with other forms of savings like Tessas and PEPs. But the real benefit of it from the Government's point of view is that it provides a very considerable cash

flow benefit, a one-off boost to tax revenues. Even so, it is not going to be enough to offset the paying twice phenomenon. So the net effect of these proposals is that tax and

net effect of these proposals is that tax and spending are going to be higher, not lower. The real difficulty with this big idea, however, is that it only partially addresses the true problem. This is not, as widely thought, some great demographic explosion in Britain's pension costs, for if the present expression costs, they are, national arrangements were left as they are, national insurance contributions would actually fall. No, the problem is not that we cannot afford the present system, but that it provides a level of benefit that falls a long way short of our expectations. In that sense Britain faces the very reverse of what our European partners are grappling with, where the difficulty is very generous state and company pension arrangements but not enough money to pay

generations of pensioners will get the ben-Even so, the state pension will fall a long way short of the decent living wage people expect in their old age. The fundamental problem of how to force people to save adequately for their declining years is not being addressed at all.

Tobacco deal is still a long way off

The tobacco companies put their finger in the dyke 40 years ago and have held back the flood of litigation with relative ease ever since. They have had a good run when you consider the overwhelming weight of evidence against cigarettes, but it was never go-ing to be possible to shore up the defences indefinitely against the might of the US le-

gal system. Yesterday's admission by BAT's chief executive, Martin Broughton, that the com-pany would consider any "sensible proposals" from the lawyers queuing up to sue can be seen therefore as a pragmatic assessment of a lost cause. Sooner or later a case will go against the industry and when that happens, legal costs of \$100m a year will seem a minor irritation compared to the crushing financial costs that will follow.

Any deal, however, will remain elusive as

efit of an accumulated investment return. vear of about \$6bn and the lawyers aren't minded to settle for much less than that. BAT hints it might be prepared to pay as much as \$100m a year - which is what it spent last year on legal fees - in exchange for immunity from all present and future lit-

igation. It's a big gap.

Two further problems remain. Assume a
deal is struck between the tobacco giants and the plaintiffs whereby a proportion of profits are paid each year into a fund from which victims would be compensated and states reimbursed for their outlay on Medicaid. For such a levy to have any meaning, restrictions would have to be imposed on the companies to prevent them simply passing the cost on to consumers. Such a level of state intervention is simply inconceivable in America and it would never get Congressional approval. A deal is a way off yet.

Sir Bryan follows a well-trodden path

What are we to make of the appointment vesterday of Sir Rosen Carpointment W vesterday of Sir Bryan Carsberg, for-mer head of the telecommunications watchdog Oftel, to the board of Cable & Wireless

Communications? BT was full of indignation. What? Sir Bryan on the hoard of a competitor company

so soon after leaving the sensitive post of regulating the telecoms industry? But perhaps in all the excitement of merging with MCI,

BT's corporate memory has become clouded. Wasn't it the then Norman Tebbit who joined the BT board in the very same year as he quit the Cabinet and only two years after leaving the post of Secretary of State for Irade and Industry where he was directly responsible for the telecoms industry?

By contrast, Sir Bryan's period of quarantine seems positively epic. It is now five years since he left Oftel. If, after all that time. there is still an element of the old boy network in operation, it is in the way Cable & Wireless was awarded a mobile telephone licence in the late 1980s. Lord Young who was then in charge at the DTI, says it was Sir Bryan's decision. The rest of the world assumes it was down to Lord Young himself who, of course, went on to chair C&W.

There is a very simple way of resolving these difficulties. Ban all politicians, senior civil servants and regulators from taking up sinecures with companies they have previously been responsible for. That, however, really ought not to be necessary. Experience should teach companies and their investors to steer well clear of ministers and civil servants seeking a comfortable berth. British Steel, British Gas, NFC and, of course, BT have all underperformed the market after employing the services of former ministers. Could C&W Communications be the one to buck the trend?

Andersen Consulting revenues at record \$5bn

Roger Trapp

The growing trend for busies to outsource non-core activities helped boost world-wide annual revenues at Andersen Consulting to a record \$5.3bn (£3.3bn) last year.

Though the firm reported vigorous growth across all global areas", the Europe/Middle East/Africa/India region saw the biggest gain, up 32 per cent at \$1.98n. Staff numbers in that region rose 21 per cent, to 16,128, compared with an over-16,128, compared with an over-

all 18 per cent rise to 44,801. Business process management, as the US-based firm calls outsourcing, was the area with the biggest rise - fees rose 46 per cent to \$582m in the year to 31 December 1996. Among the clients contributing to that income were the industrial group DuPont, investment bank IP Morgan and troubled retail group Sears. At the same time, British Petroleum has extended a contract under which Andersen runs accounting and related administrative functions in the

North Sea to other territories. Vernon Ellis, European managing partner, explained that the firm was deliberately moving away from the provision of the straightforward information technology services for which it was well-known in the past towards helping organisations with all sorts of activities that, while essential, were not central to their businesses.

Although Andersen is seeing its business growing at well above the industry average, the whole market for outsourcing is expanding rapidly, driven by organisations awareness that the business climate is changing so fast that they can survive only by concentrating on their strengths. What started in such areas as security, cleaning and

finance, logistics and even spare parts distribution as well as IT Andersen says "business process management collaborations are as varied as the firm's clients and

their needs". Last week, both Capita, the business support services group that specialises in public-sector contracts, and Anglo-French computer services group Sema

pendent computer industry analyst, attributed some of this to infancy at the moment. But he predicted rapid expansion over the next 10 years. Industry sources forecast that the total world-wide business process outsourcing market will grow from about \$110bn in 1995 to more than \$282bn in 2000.

Organisations that focus on activities "further up the value chain" than mere IT outsourcing are expected to do particularly well, he added.

Mr Ellis added that organ sations seeking to transform themselves to meet increasing competition and other challenges were looking to Andersen in particular because of its "ability to operate across borders and the ability to bring world-class knowledge and experience to bear

Such breadth of knowledge also helped the firm, run as a separate unit from the accounting and business advisory arm since 1989, in other areas, he added.

For example, communica-tions saw revenues rise 32 per cent to \$756m on the back of the firm's ability to transfer knowledge from the US telecoms market - which was deregulated earlier than others.



A STRONG YEAR OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

"Cadbury Schweppes produced record turnover, profits, margins and earnings and generated £137m free cash in 1996 against a background of organic expansion and acquisition.

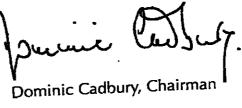
19 Sales Trading Profit	96 RESULTS 1996 £m 5,115 671	1995 £m 4,776 600	% Change + 7 +12 +16
Pre-Tax Profit Underlying Free Cash Flow	592 137 Pence	511 100 Pence	+37
Earnings per Share (FRS 3) Underlying EPS Dividend per Share	34.1 34.1 17.0	31.3 29.9 16.0	+ 9 +14 + 6

A final dividend of 11.8p is proposed which, with the interim of 5.2p already paid, makes a total of 17p per share for the year. Excluding disposal profits in 1995 of £15 million (£14 million after tax)

We are a truly global business operating in growth markets all around the world. In the US, Dr Pepper continues to outperform the soft drinks market and it is being launched internationally into new markets such as Mexico, Australia and Russia.

1996 saw outstanding performances by our core confectionery companies with product innovation the key to growth in most of our major markets.

At this early stage in the year we are confident of further growth and success in 1997 despite the impact of the stronger pound."



Casbury Schweppes

MANAGEMENT PROVEN IN THE MARKETPLACE

Grid appeals on pension ruling

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

National Grid yesterday appeal-ed to the High Court against a ruling by the Pensions Ombudsman ordering the company to pay back £46.3m of surplus cash removed from its pension fund.

The move followed a final

judgment last month by the Ombudsman, Dr Julian Parrand. which argued the Grid had "mis-used" the money, part of a £62.3m surplus identified in 1992. About 30 per cent of the surplus was used to increase pensioners' benefits while 70 per cent was used to improve the pensions element of the Grid's

voluntary redundancy scheme. The Grid also asked the court to postpone payment until the full hearing, expected in the next few months. However, the preliminary application to postpone the settlement could take place before the end of the group's accounting year, which runs to the end of March.

So far the Grid's accountants have argued the company does not need to make a formal charge for the pensions problem from its profits. Instead the amount will be listed in the accounts as a "contingent liability". The Grid said if it lost the case it would also have to increase its contributions to the fund by about £600,000 a year.

Last night a Grid spokesman insisted that the company be lieved it had acted lawfully over the pensions surplus. "We are challenging this on points of law. We will be arguing that the way we allocated the surplus was fair and lawful.

If the Grid loses the case privatised electricity companies could have to hand back almost fibn to their pensions funds, which had their origin in a single scheme. National Power has already issued its own court proceedings to clarify the argument, while Eastern Electricity has said it could be forced to pay back £75m.

French hotel group to sell £260m stake in Compass

John Willcock

Compass shares fell 3.7 per cent to 713.75p vesterday after Accor, the French hotel group, said it would sell half of its 21.5 per cent stake in the catering company to cut debts.

Accor, the world's fourth biggest hotel operator, said it intended to place the 11.5 per cent stake in Compass with institutions through a global bookbuilding operation, co-ordinated by Dresdner Klein-

At yesterday's prices the 11.5 per cent stake was worth about £250m. Accor shares rose 3.1 per cent to Fr799 after reaching a record high of Fr810 at one stage during the day.

Accor said that it was going ahead with the sale with the full knowledge and permission of Compass's management. The bookbuilding started yesterday afternoon and is expected to be completed by tomorrow.

Compass said it was not concerned about the drop in the price of its shares.

We're all confident there will he strong demand for our shares," said Roger Mauhews, Compass's managing director.

Francis Mackay, vice president and director general of Compass, said in Accor's statement: "The reduction of the Accor stake, in looking to large international institutional investors, allows us to widen the Compass shareholding and favours the company's

Accor said it agreed not to cut its remaining Compass stake to under 10 per cent for 12 months. The upward limit on Accor's stake, if it were to buy in the market at a given time, was put at 11 per cent.

In a previous agreement. Accor could not sell more than 5 per cent of its holding in Compass over a 12-month period.

In Brief

Accor gained the shares when Compass bought a one-third holding in Eurest France from Accor in September 1995, for which it received cash and about 70.7 million Compass

Under the terms of the acquisition, Accor agreed to restrictions on the acquisition or disposal of Compass shares except with Compass's agree-

The sale represents about 36.5 million Compass shares out of the 68.3 million shares Accor holds. The move is considered positive for the French hotel company because it has little management say in Compass. said analysis. The extra funds will also allow Accor to reduce debt and help it concentrate on core businesses.

'It's tremendous news for Accor," said Nigel Reed, an an-alyst at Paribas Capital Markets. "It means the company will focus more on improving the accommodation, travel arrangements and car-hire businesses.

Accor has been criticised for its debt load, slow growth in operating profits and under-performing units such as Europear. the car rental company it owns with Volkswagen. The company's stock, however, has been buoyed by an upbeat outlook for the French hotel industry.

Accor is expected to reduce debt to Fr14bn this year from Fr17bn last year, analysts estimate. That comes after the company last month reported an 8.2 per cent rise in 1996 fourth-quarter sales to

Accor, which has said it is trying to cut debt, focus on its core business and grow through acquisitions, vesterday said it formed a venture with NH Hoteles of Spain to open between 60 and 72 two-star hotels in Spain in the next seven years.

Ivory & Sime, the troubled Edinburgh-based fund manage

ment group, has hired a group of fund managers from Scottish

Amicable to run its investments in smaller companies to plug the

gap left by the sudden departure of its previous team. The new

team comprises John Johnston, Stephen Grant and Glen Nimmo

and they join the other new faces at Ivory & Sime which lost many

of its senior managers when they quit to set up their own "bou-

tique". Sir James McKinnon, chairman of Ivory & Sime, said: "The

appointment of the well-respected UK smaller companies team

is good news for the company. The board looks forward to the

marked outperformance of the next 12 months continuing." The smaller companies team had been run by John Todd but he was

Higher bonuses and salaries drove up staff costs at CS First

Boston and Credit Suisse Financial Products, the investment bank-

ing units of Credit Suisse, the Swiss banking group. Staff costs

shot up by 25 per cent in 1996 to top 6bn Swiss francs (£2.5bn)

although trading income rose 33 per cent to SFr3.9bn. Despite

operating income rising 17 per cent to SFr12.9hn. Credit Suisse reported its first ever loss of SFr2.43hn a result of "extraordinary

structural and strategic measures". The bank has introduced a

new method for calculating the amount of capital it needs to set

aside for credit risk which resulted in a charge of SFr3.9bn which

led the bank in December to warn it would report a technical

loss for 1996. The loss was greater than the SFr2.1bn originally

forecast because of a SFr195m increase in general reserves for

banking risk and a decision not to activate a SFr170m tax credit.

· The Government should stay out of a European single cur-

rency, a former member of the Chancellor's panel of indepen-

dent economic forecasters said yesterday. Professor Patrick Minford

of Liverpool University said a floating exchange rate regime was

better than European monetary and economic union for all EU

members. Even if the rest of the EU went ahead with EMU, the

UK would be better off outside it, he said. "Tying the currency

to a foreign vehicle exposes the economy to greater macroeco-

nomic instability from world and supply-side shocks that floating largely protects against." Professor Minford said.

· Sir Alick Rankin, chairman of Christian Salvesen, said Sir Gerald Elliot, former chairman, should use the support he claims he has from shareholders to convene an extraordinary general

meeting if he wishes to replace all or part of the current board. Sir Gerald has asked shareholders to vote against the board's resolution to approve a proposed special dividend of 34p per share which will be combined with a share consolidation. He said changes at the top were required in the long-term interests of shareholders.

The vote will be put to shareholders at a meeting on 13 March.

Ibstock has sold five of its brick manufacturing plants, which

were the subject of undertakings it gave to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in July 1996 when it bought Redland Bricks.

for £53m. It will use the proceeds to reduce borrowings. The plants

were sold to Ambion Brick Company which paid £44m on com-

pletion and will pay a further 13m in instalments, with interest,

over 21 months from completion. A further sum of around £6m

payable by Redland under an agreement entered into by Ibstock

and Redland at the time of the acquisition of Redland Bricks.

Company Results

223m (212m)

4 7bn (4 2bn)

15 9m (14 7m)

5 1pm (4 fibm)

59 4m (52.6m)

BICC (F)

British Biotech (C)

BWD Securities (F)

Finefist Group (1)

Metal Sallena (F)

Stat Plas Grave (F)

Trace Computers (I)

(F) - Facel (I) - Indexton

HTV (F)

Cadbury Schweppes (F)

Pre-tax £

†125m (109m) 13p (9p)

2 50m (2 38m) 48,6p (47 7m)

1 55m (4 05m) -0.3p (0 8p)

2 54m (2.51m) 8 Sp (8.3o)

22.9m (19.3m) 5.08m (4.23m) 34.4p (28.3p) 20p (16p)

13.9m /14.0m; 3.73m /3.78m; 13p /12.1p; 17.2p /10 45p;

one of the fund managers who defected earlier this year.

Succession under way at the top for Arjo Wiggins



Arjo Wiggins, the Anglo-French paper and packaging group, yesterday filled the gap created by last week's resignation of Daniel Melin, the chief executive. The announcement that he would be succeed

by Philippe Beylier, currently managing director, coincided with a report that Sappi, the largest paper and forest products group in South Africa, had recently held talks with Ario Wiggins about merging their coated

Eugene van As, chairman of Sappi, sald after the company's annual meeting that depressed pulp prices made a case for

consolidation in the European paper industry. "We have talked to a large number of players about the possibility of restructuring our coated wood-free bus-iness and one of those was Arjo," he said.

Operating rates are high because companies have failed to curtail production. "In the short term, prices may decline," he said

Arjo also said it was seeking a successor to Cob Stenham chairman (above), who turned 65 in January. He has agreed to remain chairman until the end of

Biotech moves towards first product launch

Magnus Grimond

British Biotech, the LIK's leading biotechnology company. yesterday took a step closer to launching its first product by submitting an acute pancreati-

tis drug for European approval. If the application for Zacutex to the European Medicines Evaluation Agency is successful, the company could see its first sales in some of the 15 countries of the European Union as early as next spring.

Keith McCullagh, chief ex-

ecutive, described the move as an important achievement for the company, which has yet to make a profit and yesterday unveiled a further £17.6m deficit for the nine months to January. "It marks a landmark in the history of the company ... While we wait to hear from the EMEA, manufacturing and pre-

marketing activities are under way in Europe and progress continues with the further clinical development of both Zacutex and Marimastat.

Hopes for Marimastat, an anti-cancer drug in late-stage medical trials, have fuelled a huge surge in British Biotech's shares since November 1995, Zacutex may not be on the same scale as Marimastat but it could still be a big earner if the drug is approved. Some 250,000 people get pancreatitis every year in the US and the levels in

Europe may not be far behind. with some 8 per cent of sufferers eventually dving. Analysts reckon Zacutex could achieve peak sales of between £00m and £300m by early next century. Further details of the latest UK trial which is being used as

the basis for the application will be released on 12 May, A US registration for the drug based on a second trial now under way will follow in due course, the company said.

Analysis were less enthusiastic than Mr McCullagh about yesterday's news and the shares rose just 0.5p to 251.5p. One follower said there had been little new in the announcement and ex-

pointed with the results for

1946, which saw cargo handled

rise by 3.3 per cent to 118 mil-

lion tonnes and turnover in-

crease 4.7 per cent to £247.2m.

Pre-tax profits for the year rose 5.8 per cent to £93.5m after

deducting an expected £3m

charge to get out of a loss-mak-

ing pipe-coating joint venture.

anything between £95m and

£100m, and the shares, which

had climbed 20 per cent since

the middle of December, fell

back 12.5p from the overnight

peak of 318p. Only the dividend

Analysts had been expecting

pressed some concerns over the data used to support the Zacutex application. Until further information became available in May it would not be possible to test how rigorously the company had been in differentiating the effects of the disease on the body's organs after the new treatment, he iggested. Elsewhere, Marimastat is

"continuing exactly on track", according to the company. The nine months' losses, which

were said to be "well within budget", compare with £15m for the comparable period of 1995-96 and include a third-quarter deficit of £1.55m, down from £4.05m before. The latest three months saw "turnover" soar from £4.5m to £8.53m after milestone payments totalling £4m from Glaxo Wellcome for a potential arthritis and inflammatory bowel treatment and £4.4m from Tanabe Seiyaku, the company's partner for

Cash of £193m includes the £143m raised from last year's rights issue.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Cadbury's new head finds the City's soft centre

The City seemed to warm to John Sunderland, the new chief executive of Cadbury Schweppes yesterday, marking the shares 19p higher at 529p after his first big presentation to the broking community. As well as the 16 per cent increase in full-year profits to £592m, analysts liked what they heard from him about focusing the group more on shareholder value and his promises that Cadbury would be less profligate in its use of equity issues than it has been in the past. Mr Sunderland takes over

the group at an interesting time. While chairman Dominic Cadbury was pouring cold water on the possibility of a demerger yesterday, he was also hinting that Cadbury could afford an acquisition of £1bn to £2hn following the sale of its half stake in bottling group Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages for £623m.

This hims at Mr Sunderland's main headache. Though Cadbury Schweppes is big, it is not quite big enough to battle it out with the likes of Coca-Cola and Pepsi in drinks and Nestle in confectionery.

in beverages, the acquisition of Dr Pepper has given Cad-bury Schweppes more muscle, but the group still lost share in North America last year as a result of competitive pressures. Coca-Cola spiked Cadbury's guns with a marketing blitz for its Sprite brand before Cadbury had unveiled its Sev-

en Up relaunch. The reliance on third-party bottlers for its distribution following the CCSB sale seems to make Cadbury vulnerable, though Mr Sunderland was emphasising the strength of its licensing agreements with Coca-Cola yesterday. Hefty penalties would be imposed if any of its products were delisted by Coke.

In confectionery, Cadbury's expansion into new markets may take longer to generate returns than originally expected. The start-up in Russia has already cost £18m and disposable income is growing more slowly there than forecast. There are also problems with black market imports. China will take another two to three years to break even.

It is in confectionery that the big deal is likely to come as recent deals in this division have been relatively small. Looking forward, Cadbury

Schweppes claims that Dr Pepper is growing ahead of its markets, while the long decline of the Seven Up brand is stabil-ising. But the threat remains from Coca-Cola, which is putting more resources be-hind Mr Pibb, a brand pitched

directly against Dr Pepper. In spite of the share price rise yesterday, many analysts left their 1997 forecasts unchanged at £565m-£580m. That puts the shares on a forward rating of 15. Given the competitive pressures and the recent run from last month's low of 468p, they are not worth chasing at these levels.

BICC finds a banana skin

Alan Jones, the new-broom chief executive of BICC, had reason to feel a little bruised yesterday. Despite his deliver-ing annual figures to December in line with forecasts and net debt at £80m close to half the level of expectations, the market marked the shares down 8p to 271.5p. They are now just above last October's 270p rights price, having underperformed the market by more than 50 per

cent over the past three years. Over the past two years, Mr Jones has unveiled a realistic strategy of revitalising the lowgrowth copper cables to construction business, while expanding the faster growing optical side, now aided by the £170m raised in the cash call.

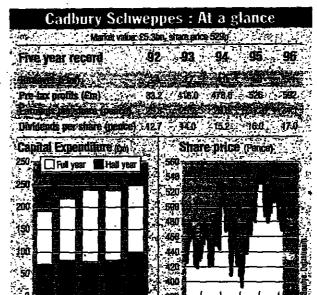
business looks like being sorted out, BICC appears to find a banana skin to slide on. Thus the £131m swing into

pre-tax profit of £64m last year hid a rather flat result at the underlying level. Stripping out exceptionals, operating profits grew from £150m to £164m, a figure which itself would have gone backwards but for £24m from three former British Rail maintenance contractors acquired during the year. Without those the Balfour Beatty contracting operation would have swung from an £18m

profit to a £14m deficit. But the real cloud hangs over the European cables business. Draconian measures to cut spending at Italy's state-owned ENEL electricity group ahead of privatisation are hitting BICC's power cables operation there and Mr Jones is signalling it will be next to face his scalpel, following similar measures over the past 12 months in the US and Germany.

There are signs that his efforts are bearing fruit. US cables' profits were up two-thirds and cables is close to his target of 20 per cent return on capital. Longer-term, the £115m or so to be spent over the next two years on optical fibres, cables and the Asia-Pacific region should deliver growth in the high teens for the most exciting third of BICC's business. Full-year profits of £165m

would put the shares on a forward multiple of 18. High



Finelist's progress good in parts

Finelist's half-year figures yesterday were pleasantly uneventful, coming soon after the acquisition last month of Ferraris, the engine parts distributor. Pre-tax profits of £7.1m were an impressive 76 per cent ahead but the market expected as much and the shares. which have had a storming run

this year, eased 4p to 385.5p. It has been quite a year for Finelist, one of two quoted motor parts retailers and distributors that are steadily carving up the estimated £2.4bn-ayear car parts market. The acquisition last year of Motor World, together with the Ferraris deal, has effectively doubled the size of the com-

turnover only £87.2m there is still plenty to go for.

Investors should expect the trickle of deals to continue but shouldn't worry about it. Chris Swan, chairman, has shown be has the ability to absorb a stream of acquisitions and the 26 per cent rise in earnings per share reported in the six months proved he can do it without diluting earnings. Shareholders were rewarded

with a 2.2p dividend, a 16 per cent increase Floated at 130p nearly three years ago, Finelist's shares have nearly tripled, shrugging off calls on shareholders such as the 4-for-17 rights issue in January to pay for the Ferraris pany, but with half-year deal. Wornes that it was just

another 1980s stock market shooting star that used its high-flying shares to create a house of cards have proved

well wide of the mark. The key to Finelist's progress is the economies of scale that will give the group a huge advantage over its smaller peers. Compared with the small back-street chains that typify the industry. Finelist's buying power with manufacturers such as Lucas grows with every deal it does.

On the basis of forecast profits this year of £17.4m, the shares trade on a prospective price/earnings ratio of about 18. That incorporates much of the good news, but the shares remain good value.

ABP warns on windfall tax

Clifford German

Associated British Ports is not a utility, is not a monopoly, and should not be subject to the Labour party's windfall tax, chairman Sir Keith Stuart said yesterday. There is an Olgas, Ofwat, Oftel and Offer, But there is no Ofport."

If Labour did impose a tax on ABP, "it would drive jobs and business to places like Rotterdam, a subsidised port." he said.

Charles Orange, finance director, also shrugged off fears that the surge in sterling would damage UK exports and the group's business. Our revenues and payments

are expressed in pounds, and any fall in exports would be counterbalanced by a rise in imports." Income from property re-

umed growth in the second half of the year, and could benefit from the upturn in the property

met expectations, increasing almost 20 per cent to 7.75p. ABP plans another year of heavy capital investment, although it is unlikely to repeat

last year's £83m.

Further out there are plans to develop both Hull and Immingham. The chairman is still hopeful of winning the contract to run the port of Ipswich. which he said was now a shad-But the City was disap- ow of its former self.

Sherwood confirms he wants HTV licence fee to be reviewed

Clifford German

Louis Sherwood, chairman of HTV, yesterday confirmed this week's report in The Independent that he was seeking a re-view of the company's licence terms as he disclosed that its annual £24m licence fee swallowed up almost 25 per cent of last year's advertising and broadcast revenue.

He said the company was talking to the ITC over the terms of a review which could take effect in 1999, and which would be four years before the 10-year contract was due to ex-

Mr Sherwood and Christopher Rowlands, chief executive, hope for a "significant reduction" to reflect the vastly increased competition from other television channels. They are reluctant to put a figure on it, but some analysts think the cut could be as much as 50 per cent. HTV will have to argue its already exceeding its commitments to local programmes. The remarks about the licence review accompanied

HTV's annual results which, despite optimistic noises on prospects from Mr Sherwood, disappointed investors and sent the company's shares down by 10p to 350.5p.

erating profit was almost unchanged at £12.2m and the cost of bringing in digital technology resulted in £2.1m of exceptional charges. Pre-tax profits plunged 18 per cent to £9.9m. Earnings per share slipped by 2p to 8.5p. The dividend, how-

case hard, but the company is Christopher Rowlands: Hopes for a 'significant reduction'

Turnover last year edged up ever, goes up 11 per cent to by 3 per cent to £139.3m, op- 4.15p.

HTV has not experienced a surge in advertising revenues, unlike other ITV regions, particularly London. Revenue rose just 2 per cent to £96.8m, and its share of the national cake fell from 6.01 per cent to 5.84 per cent. The telecom advertising war which has brought in rich pickings in the capital has yet to reach Wales. Mr Sherwood, however, believes that HTV's new four-year deal with its airtime sales agent. TSMS, will bring improved results.

The Harvest Entertainment programme sales division continued to prosper, pushing profits up 24 per cent to £5.6m on turnover up only 5 per cent to £32m. Its contribution to group profits shot up from 36 per cent to 44 per cent and could be over 50 per cent this year, boosted by an alliance with Warner Brothers. The first joint production, a 26-part animation series, Zor-ro, will be shown in the autumn.

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\$3.5m (88.4m) | ±18.9p (17.6p) | 4.25p (3.5p)

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market report/shares

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Share spotlight

Fear of flying into next century boosts techno stocks

midnight approaches on New Year's Eve 1999.

The reason for the gallows humour is the "millennium bomb" - the inability of computers to distinguish between the 20th and 21st centuries - that is riching appears in computers. that is ticking away in computer European Union telecom min-systems up and down the land, isters today. Latest reports suggest that the extent of the problem has

been greatly underestimated.

The joke going round City dealing floors yesterday was don't be on an aeroplane as ded processors.

Not surprisingly, few companies have taken corrective

In the meantime, traders the extent of the problem has been greatly underestimated.

Apparently programmers, worried by the high proce of the problem has been greatly underestimated.

Several hit record highs vessionally including the problem and the meaning. In the meaning, traders don't want to be caught short of certain technology stocks.



MARKET REPORT PATRICK TOOHER

shares have slipped back from over 120p since September's interims, but dealers say the fall is overdone as the second half German mark. order book was up 60 per cent.

tiple of 8.9 times estimated earnings for 1996, helped by the relative weakness of the

With earnings forecast to Sage was another software grow by over 15 per cent in 1998.

group to hit a record high, up the shares stand on a prospective pie ratio of 22 and Wise entries of 12 and Wise entries o

porate earnings matched ex- man Sachs.

marks he made in December about the market's "irrational evuberance", repeated fast week when he said Wall Street's two-year rally may have pushed prices to unsustainable levels.

Cadhury Schweppes, the soft

to 644p. Emap closed 12p better at 747p, as chief executive Angeles next week.

not overvalued as long as cor- downgrading by broker Gold- []AIM-listed Geo Interactive Media advanced 4.5p to 99p. BAT Industries was the Testing for its Emblaze The tone of his comments weakest blue chip, falling 185p Creator has been successfully to 531p after saying it was will-completed and is being ing to pay \$100m a year as part of an industry-wide settlement Virgin. The product, which of US tobacco litigation.

Bid talk again lifted Reed, up
39p to 1181.5p, with Reuters,
the rumoured suitor, off 15.5p
will be released at the Spring

Shield Diagnostic's daz-

computer memory in the 1960s and 1970s, stored year dates in microchips as two digits rather than four to save money. As a result the software will be unable to distinguish between 1900 and 2000. The microchips, or embedded processors, are used in traffic lights, chemical plants, power stations, offshore oil installations while oil tankers.	Several hit record highs vesterday, including Logica, 32.5p higher at 1015p, Misys up 5p to the higher at 1015p, Misys up 5p to the software group and P&P, 2.5p better at 228.5p. Micro Focus, another software group providing solutions for the millennium date change, soared 87.5p to 1152.5p after returning to the black in the first quarter. Peek, which makes traffic light systems, raced ahead 3.5p to 86p as buyers emerged ahead of Tuesday's finals. The	Arculus quit last week. FKI. still recling from its falled bid for doorknobs group lysts away happy with new chief executive John Sunderland's performance. A chunky last million shares were traded. Glaxo Wellcome. reporting to close 19p firmer at 529p after an upbeat post-results presentation sent analysis presenta
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Rich man, poor man, superstar

tered the political fray again at the start of this week with a fresh call for help for the poorest 30 per cent in society. Income distribution has become an orgent moral matter in Britain because of the sharp increase in inequality during the past 20 years. Incomes in Britain are growing further apart faster than anywhere else in the industrialised world.

We are still not as polarised as the US, where the economist Richard Freeman has described the deterioration in prospects for unskilled American men, especially young men, as an "eco-nomic disaster". For example, not only are these men more likely to be unemployed; if they were in work their pay, adjusted for inflation, actually fell by a staggering amount during the 1980s - by a fitth for young males with less than 12 years of schooling.

The most likely explanation for the increasing inequality in the US and UK, and rising unemployment on the Continent, is a growing divergence in people's ability to create economic value - their productivity, or underlying ability to earn.

When this occurs, one of two things can happen. Either the distribution of earnings will widen to a corresponding degree, and employers will continue to be willing to hire the least productive people because they can pay them relatively less. Or, if the framework of employment legislation prevents this, then companies will stop wanting to hire the individuals with lowest earnings ability. Unemployment for the unskilled will stick at a high level.

New technology is a highly plausible explanation for greater inequality in how productive people are in their two American economists Robert Frank of Cornell University and Philip Cook of Duke University, in their book The Winner-Takes-All Society. Their star can easily reach a world wide audience. Consumers will prefer to see or hear them, even at a slightly higher cost, because of their known star quality. There is much less of a market for the tenth or twentieth best.

Frank and Cook point out that superstar status increasingly applies outside the conventional areas of sport and entertain-ment. A global brand will make its manufacturer far more moncy than a very similar product that does not achieve the same recognition in the market place. That means there are superstar product designers, engineers, advertising executives and so on anybody with a proven record of success will become a celebrity in his or her own field. The authors write: "The winner-take-all markets ... have permeated law, journalism, consulting, medicine, investment banking, corporate management, publishing, design, fashion, even the hallowed halls of academe."

Information and communications technology has helped this spread in two ways. It decreases the cost of delivering a service or product and it increases the market for the service. If I am a star opera singer, once I have sung and recorded an aria it can be very cheaply disseminated; and the market for my singing is likely to be world-wide, not just the



DianeCoyle As economic inequality grows, the

winner-takes-all ethos is spreading to all sections of society

est opera house. The same is true if I am a star surgeon. Technology means I can diagnose and treat patients around the world, and I will be known around the world.

Frank and Cook go on to people who can get to the near- economic terms. They have a commons whereby common

series of arguments. First, they say, superstar economies generate income inequality, which is a social bad. True, but not an economic inefficiency. Second, they argue that win-

ner-take-all markets cause effort to be misallocated. Everybody wants to be a superstar, so too many people pile into professions where the winner-take-all conditions apply. They write: "In increasing numbers our best and brightest graduates pursue top positions in law, finance, consulting and other overcrowded arenas, forsaking careers in engineering, manufacturing, civil service, teaching and other occupations in which an infusion of additional talent would yield greater benefit to society."

Apart from the fact that this contradicts their earlier argument that the superstar phenomenon now encompasses engineers, surgeons and professors, it is also breathtakingly value-laden about what careers are "socially useful". The despised law, tinance and consulting form a large and growing part of modern post-industria) economies. If they are so much in demand it is hard to see in

what sense they are not useful. The third argument relies on a separate point about overcrowding into less socially useful areas. Frank and Cook see an argue that this is inefficient in analogy with the tragedy of the

land is overgrazed because in-dividuals' private benefits carry a social cost. So, they suggest, there is overcrowding into the field of mergers and acquisitions law because successful candidates do not realise that their job is gained only at the expense of a rival's failure to get in. All those failed candidates would contribute more to the economy if they had decided to be teachers

in the first place.

The analogy is false, of course.

Land is in fixed supply; the supply of M&A jobs - or demand r lawyers - is growing. The fact that not all of them become stars does not imply that there is an inefficiently large number of lawyers. If there were, real pay for lawyers at the bottom of the

heap would decline. The book's conclusion - that very high incomes should be very heavily taxed - plays well in some political circles. It would be an interesting proposition to put to the voters - should incomes over, say, £100,000 a year, be taxed at 75 per cent? Governments that tried it would probably find many of their winners emigrating.

Nor would tax punishment change the underlying economic forces. In a weightless economy driven by information technology, individuals' earning power varies more than in a heavy economy. Different people doing the same job will actually be serving different markets - from a small-town solicitor or attorney through a specialist employment lawyer to a global star every international corporation wants to hire for its most important cases. In fact, the dispersion will probably increase.

In the long run, the hope must be that the technological revolution will create a rising economic tide that eventually benefits everybody. For all the social horrors and inequality of the Industrial Revolution, it is easy to forget that it had trans-formed living standards within a generation. The inequality and tension are features of the transition. Policies for adjusting to a new kind of economy will have

Training for the North Pole is a tyring business

There are so many expedi-tions to the North Pole setting off around now that soon the top of the world

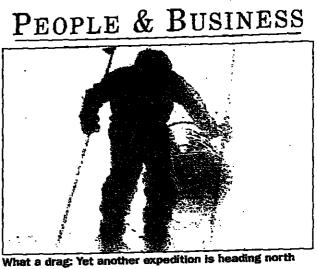
will resemble a BT agm. The latest is Julian Hauson Smith, the 35-year-old managing director of Financial Dynamics, a firm of City pr people.

His team, which will drag sledges 150km from the 89th Parallel to the Pole, consists of: Charles Shaw, managing director of Morgan Lovell, an office refurbishment company; Richard Hickson, 2 self-employed management consultant; Joe Meacham, who plays bass guitar in the London production of Grease; and Pen Hadow, of the Polar Exploration Company, Somerset, who will guide the expedition.

"We're aiming to raise £100,000 for the charity Whiz Kids, which seeks to give mobility to handicapped children," says Mr Hanson Smith, "When we get to the North Pole. James Heath, who's 11 and confined to a wheelchair by cerebral palsy, will be flown in to meet us. That'll be on 21 April, the Queen's birthday. We'll take a Union Jack with us, and a rifle, although I'm told polar bears don't go that far north.' Mr Hanson Smith has

been training by running around a field with a tyre tied behind him. "My wife can't believe it." he says. Neither can 1.

There are sparks flying at Christian Salvesen, the transport group, as it prepares for next week's egm to vote on a special dividend. The manigement face strong opposition over the payout from the Salvesen family, who hold 30 per cent of the company. Since 44 per cent of the company's share register consists of private sharehas embarked on a phone



ceived a call encouraging her to vote against the special dividend. Will she support her son? We'll have to wait

As BZW commences its move to Canary Wharf, I hear it has poached most of neighbouring Morgan Stanley's mail room staff.

Two people from the Morgan Stanley mail room left some time ago to set up their own company, and when they won the contract to run BZW's room they took another couple out of the American bank. Sounds like Morgan had better batten down its tea ladies.

Gavin Strang, shadow agriculture minister, has promised that Labour will deguard the future of the British pinta delivered to the door. Does this have anything to do with the fact Northern Foods, whose chairman. Chris Haskins, is an informal adviser to Labour, delivers more than 1.5 million doorstep pintas every day? Mr Haskins is being touted as a possible Labour peer if

You can't get much worse luck than Ronson, the maker of cigarette lighters. In Janu-ary 1996 its Newcastle factory went up in flames. knocking a £1m hole in the company's accounts.

It wasn't, however, due to over-zealous testing of lighters. In fact, the fire started in another factory. The flames leap-frogged one fac-tory and landed on the Ronson premises, where lighter fluid was being stored.

A Ronson spokesman said: "Until then the fire looked containable, but when it reached the lighter fluid it looked like the Gulf War.

The Inland Revenue is promoting its self-assessment scheme on 3 million Chinese and Indian takeaway lids.
The "Adlids" carry the merry caption: "Don't get stuffed by Self Assessment."

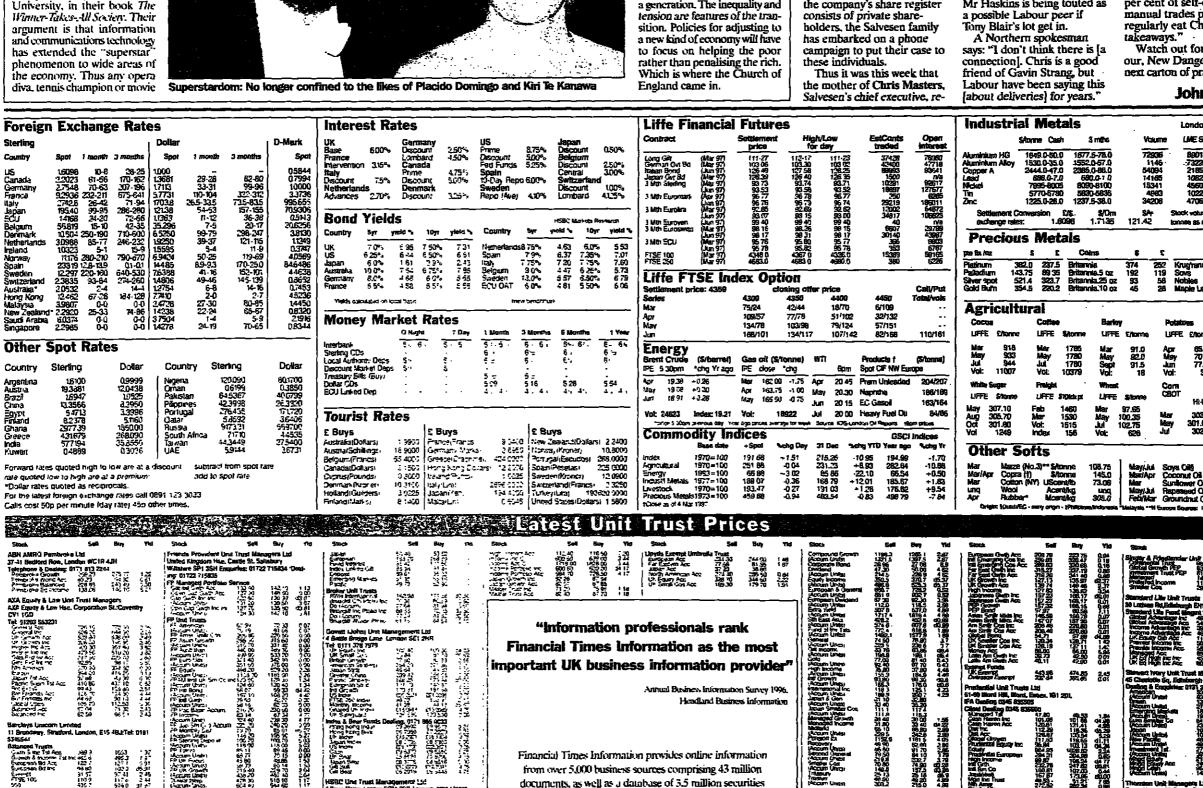
When Labour's Brian Donohue asked the Chancellor Ken Clarke to justify this novel promotion, the noted gourmand replied: "According to research, 60 per cent of self-employed manual trades people... regularly eat Chinese takeaways.

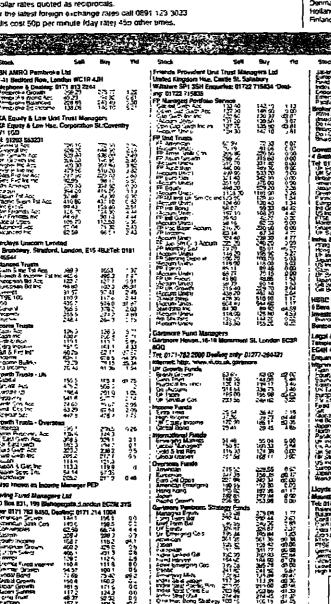
Watch out for "New Labour, New Danger" on your next carton of prawn-tried rice.

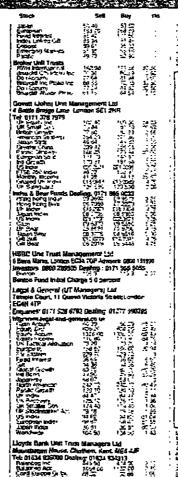
John Willcock

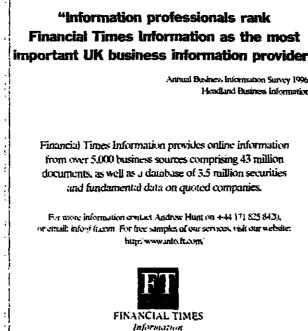
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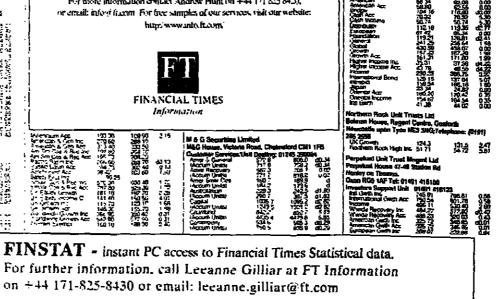


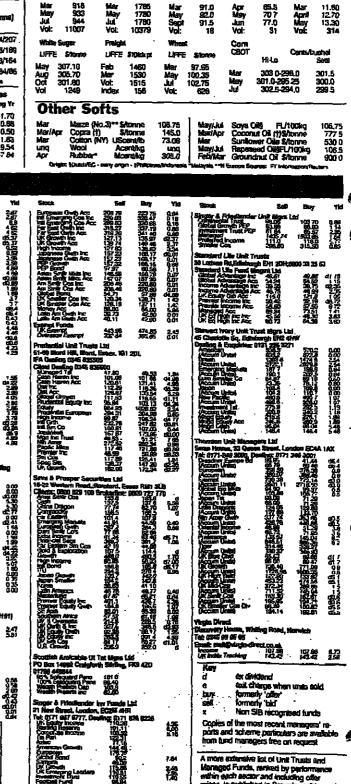






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sport

A wider

role for

performance director for eques-

trian sports will now have to cov-

er all three Olympic disciplines:

show jumping, dressage and

three-day eventing. The posi-tion had been announced -

and advertised - as one con-

The British Horse Trials Association had been preparing to

interview four applicants when the Sports Council, who will be funding the appointment, de-cided to extend the parameters.

cerned with eventing only.



Cyborgo fuels Cheltenham Pipe dream

It is a fortunate trainer whose yard is home to more Cheltenham contenders than there are races at the Festival to run them in, but then Martin Pipe has never been a man to operate on anything but a grand scale. No fewer than 30 members of the champion's string are potential challengers at next fers his best chance of winning week's meeting, and yesterday Pipe offered some helpful hints to punters wishing to finalise

their investment portfolios. Remarkably, Pipe has seven entries for the opening Supreme Novices' Hardle

The laconic Tim Forster showed

as much enthusiasm as he ever

does after his Queen Mother

Champion Chase contender,

2.10 SEAVINGTON MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) (DIV I) £2,775

2.40 BROADSTONE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,760 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £3,704

PORM GLIDE

CAMPECHE BAY has not run since injuring himself when unsessing in the Cathcart at Chelterham lest year but will not need to be it, peak times to make a successful return. A winning inch pointer, he ran well first time out lest season when second to Monicearman at Chelterham and went on to show useful form over fences, notably when second to Senor El Beinati in the valuable Scilly Islea Novices Chase at Samdown. If Campache Bay is let down by lock of a recent run, then Frazer Island is the one who should benefit. He followed seconds to Pongo Warring at Deter and The Research Bert at Follustione with an after-way with from Mandys Marriino at Hurtingsion and is sure to go well under the paralty. The remainder are transferate. Resolution would have fair prospects on his seconds to Ponghytos at Worteston at Monestre and Soonstreat, at Follustione back in November but has been well beaten on his lest no starts. A better bet might be Denes Dance, who was chasing Founds Romeo when failing three out at Tauriton last time.

Selection: CAMPECHE BAY

3.10 WINCANTON LOGISTICS' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C)

- 5 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. The handings weight: Hawalian Youth Sot 13th, Meeson Paul Sat Gib, Black Church

921 410. BETUNIO: 5-4 Humanilan Vontin, 11-4 Sector & Betrotti, 4-1 Minestro Paul, 11-2 Foois Brauni, 14-1

FORM GUIDE

SENOR S. BETRUTTI can dominate. Subcassful in valuable races at Ascot (twice) and Sandown

SENOR EL BETRUTTI can dominate. Successful in valuable rates at Ascot (twice) and Sandown less senson when making all, he bounded back to form at Warwick in a three-numer race less times, allowing General Pershing to race in a clear lead before going on at the 11th and withing such selected from odds on Southempton. He is 6th higher but should be capable withing such selected from odds on Southempton. He is 6th higher but should be capable or giving the weight to this feel. Hawailler, Youth has had to write had for his two Windows are wins and is taking a step up in class, it took him a while to get going before bearing sor wins and is taking a step up in class, it took him a while to get going before bearing some hast time and is taking and capability. He had been and fowcester in November, the bean desopointing darly. Fools Equand, successful at Everter and fowcester in November, the bean desopointing on his last two runs and may be best watched, while Stack Charch, pulled up at Fortiving last once, has piersly to prove from 10th out of the handbeg. Material Paul is 8th writing and the weights, but he managed a two-tength success from Sootion over the course and distance bed time and could be the danger.

Selections SENOR EL BETRUTTI

8-57351 SEMORE E. RETRUTE (159) GENERALLY WARRING 2-23/410
8-57351 SEMORE E. RETRUTE (159) GENERAL RESEARCH DES ST. 20
2-1125P FORLS ERRAND (59) (No Dead Research & Beiding 7 10 8
4715-211
RAMPARAN VOLTER (35) (D) (B) Redicol) G McCourt 9 10 0
PR-2441 MAESTRO PRIZ. (24) (25) (F) 7 Polymon) J Gillord 11 10 0
SIACSTRO PRIZ. (24) (25) (F) 7 Polymon) J Gillord 11 10 0
SIACSTRO PRIZ. (27) (D) (D) 8 Measures) R Rown 11 10 0

Black Charch 1996: Pashop 9 11 12 J Osborne 10-1 (N Hendeson) 7 ran

FORM GLEDE

added 2m Penalty Value £1,918

alone, but it is his two runners in the Gold Cup a week today, Cyborgo and Challenger Du Luc, which are uppermost in his thoughts. Though it is one of the few major events which has so far eluded him - and the shameful circumstances surrounding the failure of Carvill's Hill when favourite five years ago are still painfully fresh in the memory - the trainer has long believed that Cyborgo of-

a Gold Cup. "The bookmakers give my two horses no chance," Pipe said yesterday, "but I can assure you I fancy them both to run big races. Cyborgo is only seven and whatever happens this year

we've got a few more cracks at the race with him to come. "Challenger is very well in himself and must have a good chance. If you took out his fall behind Coome Hill in the Hennessy and his poor run at Cheltenham afterwards he's done nothing wrong, winning the

Pipe has clearly not consulted the bookmakers' lists in the last few days, since Cyborgo has been backed from 25-1 down to as low as 14-1 following the news that Charlie Swan will take

Murphy's and a little race at

the ride.
Other members of his team will also go to post with signif-icant ante-post support behind

been ruled out of both. Last

Stand, the Tote Gold Trophy winner, who will be joined in the Champion Hurdle by Pridwell. who finished third to Collier Bay 12 months ago and generally runs well at Cheitenham.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Ardrina (Carlisle 3.00) NB: Maestro Paul (Wincanton 3.10)

den by Tony McCoy and is well but I don't know if he's going to handle the ground as they are watering and he would prefer it on the fast side," Pipe said, "but

bedded in a joint after scoring at Newcastle 19 days ago and,

although successfully treated

he's earned his place in the line- Pipe could conceivably return up, and Pridwell could sneak a place again."

It may be significant, though, that the trainer looked elsewhere when asked to nominate his best chance of a winner next week. "You can't have bankers at Cheltenham as it is much too difficult," he said, "but White Sea [Triumph Hurdle] is very good and has to be one of my best chances over the three days," explained the trainer. White Sea appeared to receive a somewhat lackfustre ride from Swan at Newbury last month

when the filly finished second to Kerawi, but the Irishman will keep his place next week. If his luck is in, meanwhile,

home with half a dozen winners to his credit, such is the depth of his squad. "I think Kailash, Nordic Breeze and maybe Daraydan will go for the Supreme Novices' Hurdle, while Deano's Beeno and possibly Daraydan could go for the Royal Sun Alliance, but it's too early for definite plans for those

"Indian Tracker could run a big race for us in the Royal Sun Alliance Chase, and I hope Doctoor gets a penalty in the County Hurdle as that means he will have won the Imperial Hurdle [at Sandown on Satur-

that winners are not the only measure of a good Festival. Three of his runners failed to return from last year's meeting, including Draborgie, who broke a leg when favourite for the

one of Pipe's many imports from the French jumping circuit will contest the same race on Tuesday. "He's very, very well but he's got it all to do as he's got [David Nicholson's] Mulligan to beat and that's a tall or-der as that one is likely to be most people's banker of the week on what he's done so far. But whatever happens, what matters is that the horses come

races at the moment.

new job at BHTA Equestrianism

Arkie Trophy. Or Royal, like Drahorgie **GENEVIEVE MURPHY** The Sports Council has decided that the responsibilities of a

day]."
Yet Pipe knows only too well

3.20 BANQUE ARUE ITALIA HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 3m 1f

11/27- WHAT A 10 DO (200) C Sweeping 13 1: 6 Mars L Sweeping (7)
11/17-P DRISET (222) T George 14 12 2 ... Mar T Edwards (7)
4630-P FIDDLERS PRIC (24) (C) (D) Mar R Henderson 16 11 12

3.50 HOECHST ROUSSEL MARES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 5f

FINAL ROSE R Smith 7 10 7 ______ D Walsh
OS FUN WHILE IT LASTS (24) T Forster 6 10 7 ____ C Llowellyn

OF PUN WHILE IT LASTS E.94 (* POSTS* 5-10 / LOWERING KINGS* RANBOW MFS D'HARRES 10.7 J. FTERLOY ASOS ROSHEER (24) Mess H Kright 6-10 7 J. Callody 32-(352 MAYLIN MAGIC (24) Y Casey 6-10 7 J. A McCardby CFO-OPO MESS WILETEE (22) D Winte 6-10 7 W Massiston PROCTON PENNY J Massiston 5-10 7 J. Eley O-P RED RAYER (27) C Dreve 6-10 7 Mis R Thornton (5)

- 10 declared BETTHE: 11-8 Koovekin Quoen, 5-2 Ledy High Sheriff, 6-1 Koshena, 7-1
Naylin Magic, 14-1 Klag's Rainbow, 20-1 Fan While It Lusts, 25-1 Finel
Rose, 33-1 others

4.20 BANQUE ARJIL & COMPAGNIE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m If

9st Stb. Prumitive Singer 9st Stb. BETTRUC: 11-4 Singuon, 4-1 Carlingford Lakes, 9-2 Celtic Barte, 11-2 Solo Bent, 13-2 Holy Sing, 10-1 Tyranuas, 12-1 Scribbler, 20-1 Primitive Singer, 25-1 Stagestrykili

4.50 BANQUE ARJIL POLSKA HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m

1 2114-24 TEAPLANTER (13) (CO BF) Mess C Sourcers 14 12

A new "superbet", the Four- hoped will rival the National tuner, will be Lord Wyatt's Lottery have been advanced by parting contribution to racing when he retires as chairman of the Tote next month after 21 years. The het, based on predicting the dual forecast in four designated races, is being de-

vised by the company for launch towards the end of the year, writes John Cobb. Plans for the bet, which it is

TOWCESTER

Ladbrokes' participation in the Tote Direct scheme.

Lord Wvatt revealed the bet at the annual Tote lunch, an event marked by the attendance of the Prime Minister. Despite admitting that the

Tote's odds against the Tory party winning most seats at the upcoming election are 7-2. com-

Wyatt's legacy: the Fourtuner about Labour. Wyatt main-tained: "I don't believe this election is a foregone conclusion."

The remark may have been made in deference to his principal guest, or in thanks to the party that have kept him at his post for so long, but it is hoped that the thinking behind the Fourtuner are based on a sounder grip of reality.

The vacancy will, therefore, be re-advertised, probably with more emphasis on training rather than administrative skills. Giles Rowsell, chairman of the three-day event selection committee, said: "We have to abide by the rules to get the money." However, the change of goalposts seems likely to make the new appointment less

fruitful for eventing than the one originally envisaged.
Britain's leading event riders are at Stoneleigh, attending a three-day course sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Saddlers, with Chris Bartle instructing in dressage and Graham Fleicher in show jumping. Those taking part are likely to include the entire British team for September's European Open Championships at Burghley, where Rowsell will also fill

the role of chef d'equipe. In previous years the selectors have usually required those looking for a place on the championship team to compete at Badminton in May. This time, however, they are being given a free rein to plan their itineraries, albeit in the knowledge that good form in Bad-minton's four-star event will count for more than any performance - however impressive in a three-star contest, such as Saumur in France of Punchestown in Ireland.

THREE-DAY EVENT RIDERS (on senior training course): C Bathe, h Door, W Fox. Prt. N Giftond, C Humable, Liennings, M King, L Low, h Parker, G Parsonage and I Stark,

Samaranch to stand for re-election

Olympic Games

Juan Antonio Samaranch confirmed yesterday that he will stand again for re-election as president of the International

Olympic Committee. Samaranch, who turns 77 in July, will bid for a fourth term in one of the key positions in sport. If he wins, the Spaniard, who has a reputation as a diplomat as well as a shrewd businessman, has the chance to complete 21 years in office after taking over the job in 1980.

However, Samaranch, who has a chance to continue only because his Latin allies in the organisation managed to force a vote to raise the IOC age limit in 1995, said he would be in charge for the last time at an Olympic Games in Sydney in the year 2000

"It was not a difficult decision. I like what I do. It is not a sacrifice to be president of the IOC," Samaranch said after the IOC announced that its four vice-presidents were putting his name forward to the vote in September.

If he completes his fourth term in office. Samaranch will be 81 by the time the next election takes place in 2001.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

PURDERAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP QUARTER-FINALS FIRST LEG Barrotons v AIK Sohin (8.0) Badica v Florentins (7.45) Badica v Florentins (7.45) Six Staron Bargen v AEK Alhene.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP FIFTH ROUND
Ceftic v Rangers (7.45)
UNESCOTO LEAGUE UNITED FIRST DIVISION CUp
Bight-round replays hetherie-1v Annon Ltd (7.30). third-round replays Netherhead v Asroon U.G (7,30), PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Notung-ham Forest v Everton (7,0), First Division: West Bromwith Albigh v Port Valle (7,0).

Basketball BUDWESER LEAGUE Leopards v Worthing 9

Other sports

BOWLS: English Women's Naponal Indoor Champ-ionship (Yorky, DARTE: Linesa lungtom Metchplay Championship (Dancester).

BANGOR 2.10: 1. Dargarshan V. Culon) 8-11 far. 2. Zander 7-1: 3. Morphens 15-6. 14 mm. 4. nc. Orbs: Hingto, Worther). Toke: £1.60; £1.10, £1.10, £1.50. Dual Forecast £4.50. PCS: £2 no. The city

F1.10, F1.10, F1.50. The F1.50. The F1.50. The F1.50. 240: 1. REGIMAY FIVE (Mass E Armes) 20-1; 2. Featurder 7-1; 2. Came Cottage 5-4 for 6 ran, sit, rit, 1. fl.ady Sustr Brooke, Rompard, Toke 530.30; 67.40, 53.40. DF: 142.60. CSF; £118.59. 3.10: 1. SEMAN IOCKET (A PINCO)) 4-50-2 for Experience for V.20-1; 2. Sentemy

3.10: 1. SEMAN HORSE! (A PARAMY) 9 tow, 2. The Secret Gray 20-1: 2. Sentency 9-1. 8 rise. 9, Ind. (B Pape, Wellington), Total £1.30: £1.10, £1.80, £1.30. DF. \$7.70, CSF. £10.38. 3.40: 1. Westerf W. SIDE (C Mande) 10-1; 2. School Seymour 16-1; 2. A S. Sen 20-1

To Wincenton 4.40 today). Non Runners: Admira's Guest. Espla.

4.10: 1. CAURBOO GOLD (I Oscome) 4-5 tax; 2. Cadleva Star 9-2; 3. Rubine Boy 33-1. 14 man. 3, 25. (K Balley, Upper Lambourn). Tota: £1.70; £1.70; £1.50, £1.50, £1.61.0. CF. £4.00. CSF: £4.37. Titcaet £59.63. Tito: £93.70. NP: Garethson.

4.40: 1. UDUSH TULLY (I Oscome) 6-4 fax; 2. Secondal Shaller 12-1; 3. Luke Warm 15-2. 13 man. 10, 3%. (F Jordan, Leoninsten). Rotte £2.50; £1.40, £2.20, £1.80. DF: £43.10. CSF: £19.33. Titcaet £107.78. Tito: £61.70.

1.65: 1 RADMORE BRANDY (G Los) 7-1: 2. Noir Expett 15-8 fav; 3. Flasco 14-1

DP: £4.80, CSP: £4.45. Tro: £13.60, 3.00: 1. SAYIN NOWT DA: A Perfect 5-2 for; 2. Structure and Led 20-1; 3. Admission

RACING RESULTS Tota: £3,20; £1.10, £5.00, £2.30. DF: £140.20, CSF: £49.57, Tricx £158.80, 3.30; 1, KARENASTINO (R WSGrson) 8-1; 2, Rings Sermon 3-1; 3, Tico Gold 9-2, 8 ran. 13-8 fav Bold Account (Sth), nk, 6.

8 ran. 13-6 fee Bold Account (5th). ni. 6. (Mrs S Smith, Briggey). Totate £7.50, £2.00, £1.40, DF: £11.30, CSF: £31.17. Tocst: £112.94, Tice £13.20, RR Ning Of Sael. 4.00: 1. MALOR VAASI (A Dobbh) 14-1: 2. Pryop Safetilita 7-1; 3. Mrs. Jamietyford 7-1; 4. First to The Field 9-1. 18 map. 6-1 fee Court John Totate £25.00; £8.30, £1.30, £1.70, £1.80, DF: £79.00, CSF: £98.16, Tocst: £558.87, Troc. £323.50.
4.30: 1. ROMERTY LEA (P Niver) 4-5 Sw;

5.00: 1. EASBY BLUE (P Mean) evens by:

£9.65, Tno: £43,10. Placepor: £26.40. Quadpot: £11.80. Place 6: £37.17. Place 5: £17.77.

2.20: 1 TAKHLID (Mass R Clark) 14-1; 2. Dencing Stout 10-1: 3. Lochon 16-1. 10 rat. 6-4 for Musterig 1, hd. (D Chapman). Total £18.50; £4.70, £2.60. £4.20. DF:

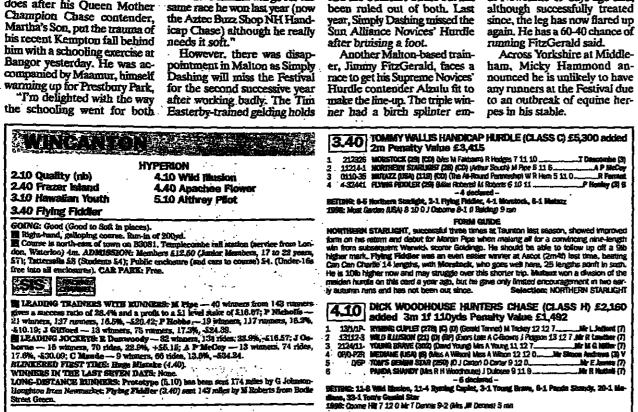
J.40 totay).
2.50: 1. SWORD ARM (I Sprike) Evens Say 2. Little Acom 12-1; 3. Only Jest 14-1, 9 ran. 1, 3. (R Chemon). Totas: £1,60; £110, £3.20, £1.60. DF: £21.00. CSF:

21.10, 23.20, 21.80. Dr. 22.100. (SF: £14.98. Truc £20.80. 3.20: 1. GLOBERROTTER (Dean McKeown) 3.1; 2. Foot Battlefon 9-1; 3. Million 15-2. 8 ran. 5-4 ab Don Sebastan (48th). 2½, ½. (M. Johnston). Tota: £5.10; £1.80, £1.70, £1.90. DF: £10.00. CSF: £31.32. To-cast £1.81.63.

3.50: 1. ALBAHA (R Musery 2-1 fac, 2. Mafor Change 9-2: 3. China Castle 10-1. 8 ran. 7: 7. U Banksi. Teter £3.00: £1.20. £2.30. £1.90. DF: £7.70. CSF: £12.50. Tecast: 275.32. Tris: £43.10. NR: Leading Spirit.
4.20: 1. SOLDIER COVE (D Sweeney) 132; 2. Northern Fan 11-4: 3. David James'
(bit 3-1.9 Prin; 2-1 fin Saras; 2½, ½; (Martyn Messie). Tota: £9.40; £2.10, £1.10,
£1.20. DF: £7.50, CSF: £24.30, Tro: £5.90.
NR: Feba.

Aljaz 5-1; 3. Needle Match 11-2, 13 ren. 9-2 fav Madura. 1;, 2, (Martyn Meede), Tota: 15.70; £2.30, £2.00, £2.30, DF: £20.90. CSE 531 04 Toront \$140.29 Tex £182.10. Piscopot: £1,026.60. Quadpot: £10.50. Pisco 6: £750.61. Pisco 6: £172.81.





Maamur and Martha's please Forster

horses," Forster said, "It's prob-able that Maamur will go for the and the Cathcart Chase but has

Assert coome Hill 7 12 0 Mr 7 Dennis 9-2 (Mis Jill Dennis 5 na)

FORM GUIDE

RYMING CURPLET tends to strike form in the spring and should be ready to do himself justice now. Last season, he won a point-to-point in April before bearing Sheer Jest 29/4 in the Land Rover Gentleman's Chempionehip at Cheltenham and a recest of that form ought to be good enough. He was well beaten on his return in a point-to-point at Badbury Rings in January and had to be pulled by when his rider loss his zonts in a point-to-point of Great Trethew last time. Whild thesion is not the force he once was, but he won a point-to-point and three hunter cheases last year and made a successful return in a point-to-point at Kingston Blount before finishing that to Mr Boston at, Sandown test time. Young Brawle was beaten a long way in in a point-to-point at Larichil which was won by Brackenfield from Farmus, but he won afficer starts last season, warding up with virtings at Cheltenham and Ultrastatis in early Mily, and is far from out of it. Panda Shandy has won his last five completed starts in polar-to-points, but he is stepping up in class and may be at a fitness disadvantage the afternoon.

4.40 SPARKFORD HANDICAP HERDLE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £2,425 1 241821 GALGARGRI JANE (25) (25) (B I. Dimmart P Nichols 7 11 13
2 022901 QUELQUE CHOSE (31) (D) Pages Sarford & Meriran 7 11 12
3 2-32422 ERTEFAM, (JISA) (T) Pales Hangold O'Nesh) I Ving 6 511 10
4 (JIS21 Philosymhy (17) (25) (R) C Seale) R Bucker 10 11 9
5 06024-4 GROMANE QUAY (JIS2) (JIS 6 8 Backing & Backing 6 Backing 8 11 5
6 19-9 SPRIBE HEBE (59) (B I M Righ B Red 7 11 5
7 053435- AM SPAILPIN FAMACH (280) (K Syles) D Gardatio 8 11 5
8 251-FIP HUBE MISTAKE (27) (Wirdman Recking 77 11 5
9 2160-6 MOURTOWN RECKI (27) (Wordman Recking 17 11 5
10 0231-0 LULICARN CRY (JR (2) (Joe Cool Parmership) Ms A Boodly 6 11 3
11 04-RDS MILLSON CRY (JR (2) (Joe Cool Parmership) Ms A Boodly 6 11 3
11 14-P2P DIRESCOME (JS) (JAS Almer O'Sulfiench & Pastrock 9 10 13
13 17-P2P2 DIRESCOME (JS) (JAS Almer O'Sulfiench & Pastrock 9 10 13
13 17-P2P2 DIRESCOME (JS) (JAS Almer O'Sulfiench & Pastrock 9 10 13
13 17-P2P2 DIRESCOME (JS) (JAS Almer O'Sulfiench & Pastrock 9 10 13
14 0963-0 HANGERIG GROWE (JT) (JH Forbes) P Martyr 7 10 10
15 4064-0 MARLESKI (JA) (R'G Rost) R Frott 8 10 9
16 043-512 APACHEE FLOWER (ZL) (Julim Tacker) H Houer 7 10 3
17 024-000 COUNTROY (JS) (JS) (JSS CA Almers R R Hodges 5 10 0
18 400-PPS DIRESCOM (JSS) (JS) (JSS CA Almers R R Hodges 5 10 0
20 405P PROVE THE PORKE (PS) (JS) (JSS CA Almers R R Hodges 5 10 0
20 405P PROVE THE PORKE (PS) (JSS CA Almers R R Hodges 5 13 0
20 405P PROVE THE PORKE (PS) (JSS CA Almers R R Hodges 5 13 0
20 405P PROVE THE PORKE (PS) (JSS CA Almers S 13 0) Almers Countries Countries Countries (JSS CA Almers Countries Countries Countries Countries (JSS CA Almers Countries Countries Countries Countries (JSS CA Almers Countries Countries Countries (JSS CA Almers Countries Countries Countries (JSS CA Almers Countries Countries QUALITY, marginally the highest restd of this field on the Flat and successful like times for Bis O'Commen, also metres most expeal on hundles form. Despite drifting from 6-1 to 10-1, he managed a seven-larget that to Summer Spell at Kerepton on his debut for Philip Hobbs in quite a valuable race and shoold be able to with this. Talkethadib, successful over a mile at Brighton and Windsor for Chris Delyer, has reached the frame in both starts for David Nicholson, less thrue going down two lengths to the smart High in The Clouds at Ludiow. Nordeside Prince, third to Hoh Warrior at Newbury in November, managed a creditable fifth to Secret Spring at Kempton next time but did not stay when a well-beaten fifth to Juyash at Towcester afterwards. Zidne, a dual Flat winner lest year, gave some enchuragement in the Flying Phantom's race here on his respectance and rates best of the offers to have run over timber. Pick of the socials from the Flat are Alsahabb, second of 24 to High Premium at Ascot in October, Regal Splendour and Steller Line, who have both been nunning well on the all-weather, and Martin Pipe's Session Scott.

Selection: QUALITY

- 20 declared Minimum weight: 10st. True handloop weight: Country Tarquan Sst 13th, Dunniers Country Sst 10th, Concin-nity Sst 3th, Prove The Point Sst 9th.

BETURN: 11-2 Guidneard Jesu, 6-1 Quelquie Chose, 7-1 Mountails Remet, 6-1 Lucayes Cay, Este-fant, 10-1 Paddysway, Apachee Flower, Country Tarquin, 12-1 During King, Huga Milistete, 14-1 Crebane Query, Klecone Beg, 16-1 Spring Hebe, 20-1 handlett, An Spellpin Farnach, Hanging Grove, 25-1 Conclusity, 33-1 others 1998: Lugs Brannegan 7 11 2 Kusharine Hambidge 12-1 (M Bradsach) 21 ran

LUCAYAN CAY, awarded a handicap harde here last season on the disqualification on technical grounds of Lying Eyes, is worth a chance stepping up in distance. He was houng only his second run back efter more than a year off when fourth of 20 to Always Hippy here last time (tamelight well beatern and Conclamity pulled up), beatern and conclamity pulled up), beatern and conclamity pulled up).

his second run back after more then a year off when fourth of 20 to Always Heppy here last time (translight well beaten and Consciently pulled up), beaten just over five lengths, and the way he was keeping on at the end gives encouragement he will stay this longer trop. Gestateord Jane has gained both her was over the course and distance this season, last time beating Transplin a length and a quarter with the remainder, including Destallates Country, taked off. She has more to do with a lag weight today, though, Quelque Chase, easy winner of a Frontwell seller last time, may poss the main threat. He is Tilb higher but that was only his second run back after a lengthy absence, so he can improve. Praddysway's Fortused wen last month was a much nemover after (Dering Klag was pulled up) and the fact that the second was carrying 210 overseight and racing from 8to out of the handcap cases a doubt on the form. Estatisal is a model of consistency, last time going down so lengths to Red Lighter at Humingdon (3m2h). He probably has enough weight and has done his recent numming over longer trops. Mountain Reseat finished a long way behind Entertial in Grungs's Towcester race, but that was only his second run after a long absence. Huga Mistaken was pulled up then having failed to complete in two chases this season and is tried blinkered now. Country Tarquim has shown enough to suggest he can go close under 10st but Crobarne Quay has not been out since finishing fourth to Embley Sucy on his reappearance at Chepstrow in Country.

5.10 SEAVINGTON MADEN HURDLE (CLASS F) (DIV II) £2,750 added 2m Penalty Value £1,900

FORM SUIDE

EMBANGMENT, a decent flat performer for Richard Hannon, can step up on his course and destence fourth to The Plying Phantom (Prototype 12th of 18). That was his hurding orbit and he will improve. White Plates was higher rated than my selection on the Flat when trained by Michael Bell, but he could manage only minh to Night Dance at Market Risen on as debut for Marin Pipe. He should not be written off yet. Although Plot was an encouraging fourth to Darakshan on his debut at Benger and is another who will improve, slong with Makhaell. Out of his depth behind Kerawi at Newbury on his hurding bow. Cool Virtuse was quite impressive winning a Hereford bumper last May, while Quiet Arch has been numbing well on the all-weather and makes more appear than Ring Of Vision of the others not to have not over timber.

2.20 Hancock 2.50 Him Of Praise 3.20 Teaplanter 3.50 Lady High Sheriff 4.20 SIMPSON (nap) 4.50 Wassi Street GOING: Chase course - Good to Soft, Soft in places: fluride course - Soft, Revey parches Right-hand, unthinting circuit. Burn-in of 140yd. If Course is on A5 SE of Lown. Bus service from Northampton station, ADMISSION: Club 512 (OAPs 512): Tancesalls 58 (OAPs 54): Course 54. CAR PARE: Centre of course 52: remainder free. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Wickens One (2.20). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Fiddlers Pike (3.20) has been sent 192 miles by Mrs R Henderson from Folly Gate. Devon. 2.20 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HAND-

- 15 doctored -BETTING: 7-2 Ardent Love, 11-2 Hancock, 13-2 Fancy Mancy, 8-1 Card ned Gayle, Evenio Rafo, 10-1 Mystic Court, Roseladi, 12-1 others

2.50 JOHN WEBBER MEMORIAL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 6f s7113

CARLISLE

HYPERION 2.00 Parade Racer 2.30 Pariah 3.00 Ardrina 3.30 Soloman's Dancer 4.00 Our Robert 4.30 Acajou # 5.00 Lkwood

Bighs-hand undulating course.

Course is 4m W of junction 42 of M6. Cartisle station 2m. AD-MESSION: Chib 512 (OAPs & under-21s 59); Tanessalls 56 (OAPs & under-21s 59); Tanessalls 56 (OAPs & under-21s 53). CAR PARK: On rails 51; remainder free.

HEANKISHED FIRST TIME: Master Of Troy (3.30); Chan Move (5.00).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Into The West (3.00) een at Welberby on Thursday. LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Parade Bacer (2.00) has been sent 2.00 BORDER ESK NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 110yds

Minimum weight: 10st. True handlesp weights: Ski Path Set 13th, Willie Warmabe

Minimum weight 1051. How immunous way.

Set 4b, Strong Chemister 951.

Set 4b, Strong Chemister 952.

Set 1902. 7-2 Person Rucer, 9-2 Mrs. Robinson, 8-1 Bisch, Ica, 7-1 Pebble Bouch, 8-1 Easthoff, 10-1 Diddy Rymer, Ansura Again, 12-1 Destrone, Jacobin, 14-1 Pinercambling, 20-1 others 2.30 DERWENT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,600 added 2m 23,500 20060 270

10-353 BLZMR TRAIL (23) (0) Mes L V Russel 9 12 0 ____T Reed
2151-15 GROUSE-R-HEATHER (10) (0) P Morosch 8 11 9 __A Debbin
112525 PARLMIN (6) (5) (8) P H Corbury
479-042 CRELL WIND (5) (8) N Byrot 8 11 2 _____ S Taylor (5)
236529 REES, WAS (9) (0) M Byrot 7 10 13 _____ S Taylor (5)
30-500 SUPER SAME (23) (0) F Morosch 10 10 1 ____ K Johnston
FOUSTP QUIKALL CROSSET (7) E Carse 12 10 0 _____ M Molonsy 8

/ PURSEY QUARTED CONTROL CONTR 3.00 GOLDEN PHEASANT YOUNGERS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m 4f 110yds

- 15 facting - 10 11.8 Story - 16 facting - 15 facting -

3.30 EDINBURGH WOOLLEN MILL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 2m 4f 110yds 060/4FU MEMMAY (2) M Barnes 7 11 3 - 4 declared -- 4 declared -BETIDMS: 1-2 Salomon's Dancer, 9-4 Kentruce-Speed, 7-1 Master Of Trov.

4.00 WAVER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDI-CAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m 1f

| FU1-00 FOR SPARROW (S) N Traker 7 11 10 ____ E husband (3) 4611-20 MERRY MERINAD (8) (S) B Mociagan 7 11 6 __ S Mainse 200-242 SUPREME SOVET (10) A Whiters 7 11 4 _____ S Taylor 606304 SUPNIESE (2) (6) G Malone 6 11 2 ____ N Harmity (10) 6003-44 OWR ROBERT (8) / Frage 45 11 2 ____ F Leoby (3) 4:55333 FALLELSEPALS (8) L Lungo 9 11 0 ____ I Andrine (8) 3-7-275 HGCHAND WAY (76) M Todhuter 9 11 0 ___ I Machine (8) 0.1559 STERMA (CV (22) 00 6 Research 6 10 12 ____ P Brone (8)

4.30 EDEN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,250 added 3m 2f 1 140-294 UBU VAL (FE) (S1) (D) W Bernet 11 12 0 B Storey
2 260412 CSUIDH BOY (E) (C) Ms J Goodlefov 11 11 13 Jb R Hale V
4 5160-12 NORTHERN SQUIRE (LO) (G) JM Jeforon 9 11 1. E Chilagram (G) - 4 deciated -BETTING: 13-8 Acajou III, 7-4 Northern Squire, 100-30 Ceilidh Boy, 6-1

5.00 LIDDEL WATER NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 1f TARGE (CLASS H) EL, DUO GORGE ZIN 13

1 DOM'S RIVER (DD) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 5 11 11 — 6 Lee (3)

O SHAM MONTE (B) W Shirth 5 11 4 — 5 Toylor (5) B

O JUST MED (23) J House 6 11 4 — B Shorty
SMILE PLESSE Mrs M Son 5 11 4 — M Foster

O SUPPRESAULT (30) J Hadden 6 51 14 — W Dwint

O SUPPRESAULT (30) J Hadden 6 51 14 — W Dwint

O WOODBOUSE LAME (41) N Chamberlan 5 11 4 — W Dwint

Miles C Meteorite (7)

RETURNS: 11-10 Tour's Bres, 9-4 Linecod, 5-1 Supermail, 7-1 Side By Side, 12-1 Bytacros-Gypsy, 20-1 others

Piace 6: £188.15. Piace 5: £163.57. CATTERICK

> 12 cap. 7, 18. (G Richards, Graystons). Total 29.90; £2.60, £1.10, £7.60, DF: £8.60, CSF. £20,13. Trio: £39.20. £20.13. This £39.20.
> 23%; 1. CLIMBRIAN MAESTRO R Gently)
> 4-9 tor; 2. Oversman 7-1; 3. Undawater-senhedon 10-1; 13 ron; 9, 3. (T Easterby, Mellon), Tota: £1.60; £1.30, £1.80, £2.10.

£1.10, £1.60, £1.60. DF: £4.20. CSF: £4.17. 2 Going Primitive 15-2; S. Eaststiffe 9-2; 9 ran, 7, 10. (S Kentowel, Mudaleham). Tota: £1.60; £1.10, £1.90, £2.50, DF: £6.20, CSF:

WOLVERHAMPTON 7-1; A. Fiest to The Field 9-1. 16 mai. 6-1 fav Court Joker (puded upl. 5, 8, U Gover. Worksop). Total: £25-20; £8.30, £1.30, £1.30. £1.50: 1. ANOTHER NEGHTMARE (ARS C Wilsons) 20-1; 2. Astral breader 14-1; 3. Ring The Chief 9-2. 10 mai. 9-4 fav Large Courts: £758.87. Flor. £323.50. 4.30: 1. ROBERTY LEA P Never) 4-5 fav; 2. Tapatch 4-1; 3. Monkey Wench 6-1. 6 ren. ½, 23. (Are M Reveley). Total: £1.60; 1000 of £180.70 to Wincarion 4.40 today).

574.20, CSF £142.10, Incast: £2,087.22, Tno: not won Ipool of £236.90 to Wincanton

NR: Flaba. 4,50: 1. GLLA HIGH (D Sweeney) 5-1; 2.

'Unless we go to a system that suits us, four at the back and four in midfield, we might as well get the next plane home'

the dressing-room mutiny he led during the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico when it looked as though England would be humiliated by elimination before the knock-out stages.

At the squad meeting called after a (34) draw against Morocco (England were defeated by Portugal in their opening game) that saw Ray Wilkins sent off and Bryan Robson disabled by the recurrence of an old shoulder injury, Fenwick argued boldly against the strategy drawn up by England's manager. Bobby Rubson, and his chief assistant. Don Howe.

Pointing out that serious positional problems were being caused for him and his fellow centre-back. Terry Butcher, by the advanced deployment of England's full-backs. Fenwick

An enterprise which Terry Ferwick said: "Unless we go to a system that remembers with some satisfaction is suits us, four at the back and four in centre-half. Alvin Martin." I'm suits midfield, we might as well get the next plane home." Improving considerably as a result. England qualified by defeating Poland and went on to lose

a quarter-final against Argentina. Considering that football managers generally are averse to outbursts of independence my first thought at the time was that Ferwick had placed his international future in jeopardy. This was possibly the case because although he turned out twice more in the fournament it saw the last of his 19 international appearances.

incidentally, after confronting Robson, and while still on his feet. Fenwick shot a backward glance to see if anyone was with him. The only voices raised in support were those of Peter Reid, now manager of Sun-

centre-half. Alvin Martin. "I'm sure others agreed with me." Fenwick said when we spoke last week, "but it was disappointing that only two had the guts to stand up and be counted." As Fenwick is now making sig-

nificant progress as manager of Portsmouth with a further opportu-nity for advancement on Sunday when Chelsea visit Fratton Park in the FA Cup quarter-finals, a good question is how much independence would he tolerate in the quest for col-

lective understanding, "Well, there has to be room for input," he smiled. The remark reminded me of a instructive tale told by an outstanding coach, Alan Brown, who managed Burnley, Sheffield Wednesday and Sunderland. "At Burnley one of our most successful free-kicks came



from an idea put forward by the shyest apprentice," he said. One advantage Fenwick holds over the seven other surviving managers in the FA Cup, all of whom have yet to collar a major trophy, is the assistance of a chairman who knows what he is talking about. In

Portsmouth recently, Terry Venables was at Derby last weekend running an astute eye over Portsmouth's

Cup opponents.
Having grown up under Ven-ables at Crystal Palace along with five other members of the club's youth team who went on to achieve full international status. Fenwick is understandably grateful for his chairman's occasional interventions. "In fact I'd be happy to see Terry on the practice ground more often." he said. "He's got such a terrific mind for the game that you can always

learn something from him."
What Fenwick has already proved is that he can stand up for himself in adversity. Earlier in the season, when things were not going well, he came in for a great deal of adverse com-

for a pound when he took control of ment. In common with all managers he discovered that most newspaper critics are naturally perverse, and admiration is wrung from them only by a particularly impressive perfor-mance. Hearing the Pompey Chimes does not entirely blank out the fact that it isn't so long since he was un-

der fire from disgruntled supporters.

One thing Fenwick can refute personally is that all those who make a name for themselves in sport today. become so conceited as to become unconsciously ungrateful. The youngest, at 35, of the Cup's surviving managers, be said: "It isn't a case of feeling hum-ble, but I appreciate the opportuni-

ty that came along here. Some shrewd signings, including David Hillier, picked up cheaply from Arsenal, the former soldier, Lee Bradbury, and Mathias Svensson, who was a car salesman and part-time professional with Elsborg in the Swedish Second Division until recommended by Ted Buxton, have helped to establish Portsmouth as serious promotion contenders. "That's the most impor-

tant thing, Fenwick said.

But, of course, it is difficult for Fenwick to keep his player's minds off the Cup. "The closer it gets the larger it becomes." he smiked. "It will be something for them to look back on... the final, I mean."

The next time you see a repeat of Diego Maradona's infamous fisted goal against England in 1986 look who mounts the most vigorous protest, following the referee back to the half-way line. "It still baffles me that the rest of the team doesn't join in," he said. He never was one

Baulch wonder over one lap

Mike Rowbottom meets the Welsh sprinter whose rise takes another stride at tomorrow's world indoor championships

amie Baulch still winces at the recollection of his last experience at the Palais-Omnisports in Paris-Bercy, where he returns tomorrow in search of the world indoor 400 metres title.

The 23-year-old Welshman. whose unbeaten run indoors this season has established him as Britain's clearest medal prospect, crashed to the track in the 400m final of he 1994 European indoor championships after a collision that arose partly from his lack of experience. Baulch, whose main achieve-

ment until then had been winning a world junior sprint relay gold medal in 1992, recalls the moment when his French challenge ended shortly before the bell for the final lap. "Everyone broke across the

track and then the Russian guy caught his feet up with mine," he said. "I fell so hard, there was no way I could continue, I was almost crying, if I remember rightly. I had hurt my arm and my knee. "I was very inexperienced. I

properly. But I think I've moved on from there in the last couple of years."

That is an understatement. Since his serback, Baulch, with the coaching assistance of fellow Welshman Colin Jackson the world high hurdles record holder, has established himself as one of the leading British one-lap runners at a time when the quality in that event is at an

Last season, after winter training with Jackson and Linford Christie in Australia, Baulch lowered his 400m outdoor best to 44.57sec, missing out on an individual place at the Olympic trials but carning a silver medal in the Atlanta relay alongside Roger Black, Mark Richardson and Iwan Thomas. This year, after another high-

der, he has been unbeaten indoors, taking 0.17sec off Todd Bennett's 12-year-old British and Commonwealth 400m record of 45.56 in the process.

That European final in 1994 launched the career of another British 400m runner. Du aine Ladejo, who won the event and added the outdoor gold medal later that year before retaining his indoor title in Stockholm last spring. But, after a disappointing Olympics, a disillusioned Ladejo has now turned to the de-cathlon event. The curious turn

of events is not lost on Baulch. "Sometimes when guys are constantly winning, they can't handle it when they lose, he said. "But all through my athletics cureer, ever since I was 10 or 11,

'Sometimes when guys are winning they can't handle it when they lose'

I have had defeats. As a junior I was very small and I was always, always losing. But in a way, I think it was a good thing for me that I learned to take a beating. "I've had some real disap-

pointments, of course. Seeing Roger and Iwan run in the Olympic final and thinking: 'It could have been me', that wasn't fun. But things don't get to me too deep. I'm not one of those people who mope around thinking. 'Oh God, I didn't do this, I didn't do that.' I just like

to get on with things."

Jamie, adopted when he was five months old by Marilyp and Alan Baulch and brought up in Cwmbran, clearly has a natural resilience: a natural ebullience, too. His habitual grin

from beneath ginger dreadlocks has been one of the cheeriest features of a troubled new year for British athletics.

The key to his advance, he maintains, lies in the work he has done with some of the best sprinters in the world. "I've listened a lot this winter, and everything I've been told I've remembered," he said. "Once you've got down to 44.5 for the 400, that is the way you improve.

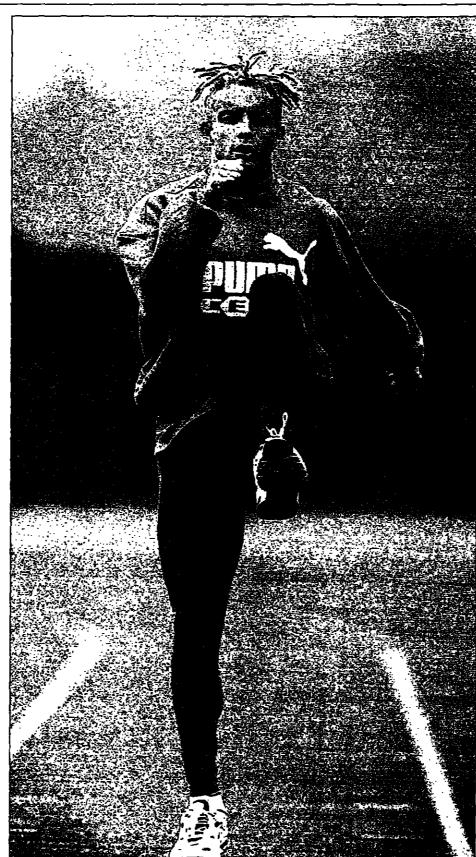
"Lots of things that Linford said to me, I thought, 'Oh God, it's so easy.' He was setting the training routines for everyone, and running along with us. He would tell us to lift our hips as we came round the 200 metres bend. Or he would say that when you get to 20, 30 metres. you are at your full speed, so why try to run any faster? I would get to 50 metres and then try to kick, which would slow me up. It seems obvious now I hink about it.

If you are training with someone who is trying too hard you will tense up yourself. If you Linford or Frankie Fredericks ou can't believe how relaxed they are and that rubs off on you.

Linford is 6ft 3in and Lam. 5ft 8in, so when I am running next to him Γm doing everything I can to match his stride, to do what he is doing by picking my knees up. You get into good

Profitable habits, as well. Last month Baulch earned his higgest single payday so far -£12,000 - by winning the Ricoh Indoor Grand Prix. "It's come all of a sudden for me." he said. "If I ever get to the level where Colin and Linford are. I would love it, but I haven't really thought about it to be honest. I'm not going to Paris for monev. I just want a title."

The Palais-Omnisports awaits part two of The Fall and Rise of



High-stepping: Jamie Baulch lifts his feet and sights in the 400 metres Photograph: Peter Jay

Williams will keep eyes on the road

Derick Allsop assesses the chances of the champions retaining their drivers' and constructors' F1 championship

If tunnel vision is a prerequisite for world championship success, then Williams-Renault can abandon all hope of retaining their drivers' and constructors titles this season. The concerns and possible ramifications of the Ayrton Senna trial, the legal wrangling over the future of their chief designer, Adrian Newey, and a heavy-duty political dispute within Formula
One ought to be enough of a
distraction for any organisation.
Frank Williams, founder and

patriarch of this remarkable tends the trial and tribulations could take their toll and no one would be so insensitive as to suggest this is "just crafty old Frank, laying it on"

But such is the order and structure of what is, after all, an engineering firm, such is the ingrained expertise, that it is difficult to imagine it could be deflected so significantly off course. race track, the competitive impulses take over, and once Jacques Villeneuve and Heinz-Harald Frentzen are strapped into their cars, the mission to win grands prix will be all-consuming.

Williams' performances in testing indicate their drivers are again likely to win on a regular basis this season. Some observers believe the champions are in even better shape than they have been prepared to let on, that Williams has instructed his dri-

vers not to show their hand. That would not be surprising and the other half of the old double act. Williams' long-time technical wizard, partner, con-

and

friend, Patrick Head, smiles off the speculation with a comment We just get on with doing our Smiling is an

fidant

emotional excess Williams is not renowned for, as Head acknowledges: "People say to me, 'That partner of yours is the most miser-

able bugger, why Williams: Hard-nosed doesn't he ever

have a smile on his face?" I tell them he's not. You should have seen him when they had him in that Renault Espace and whisked him round Silverstone. He was smiling then all right." For those of us fortunate enough not to be in a wheel-

chair, it is impossible to comprehend the distress Williams has to endure, not least when a television camera is constantly focused on him. He once confided he found that a source of considerable discomfort

But then engage him on level terms, on a wide range of topics and especially on motor racing, and the conversation flows and the grin is ear-to-ear. He is an intelligent, articulate, quick-witted man. He is also a hard-nosed boss who is not afraid to make tough and controversial decisions. Ditto Head. The difference is that Head finds it less easy to suppress what he thinks and sometimes that

makes crafty old Frank squirm. So it is that while Damon Hill may despise both of them for dropping him at the end of last season. Head is the one he derides for his "outrageous and hilarious" opinions. Williams admits he may have made a big mistake in replacing the world champion with Frentzen, and Head has hinted they might not been committed to an existing agreement with the German.

Down the years, Williams have fallen out with a number of their drivers. Nelson Piquet. Nigel Mansell and Alain Prost all departed as champions. They have certainly made stubborn stances over money or the ranking of their drivers. Some con-tend their laissez-faire policy with Mansell and Piquet cost them the championship in 1986. Hill argues it cost them in 1995. Head concedes that his man management has not been of the highest order. Again, for

example, Hill. Williams put the team first. reminding us that drivers come and go while most of the rest remain loyal to the factory cause. You do sense, however, they reiish any opportunity to cut a driver down to size and emphasise the excellence of their car.

You can, of course, afford to embrace that doctrine when Williams do. Last season they equalled Ferrari's record of eight constructors' championships. They can afford, also, to maintain that they cannot afford the best driver in the world.

It is just as well for the Formula One show that Michael Schumacher joined Ferrari rather than Williams, and there is no doubt that piece of business had the blessing of grand prix racing's marketing man. Bernie Ecclestone.

Williams droofs over the talents of Schumacher, much as he did over Senna's, but it is not part of a driver's make-up to concede the next man is better and neither Frentzen

nor Villeneuve appreciate the on-going Schumacher eulogy. Head revealed that Villeneuve scowis when he hears everybody regard Schumacher as the man," but was adamant: Schumacher had the best equipment he'd have to be favourite."

He went on: "We've got a car that is capable

of winning the championship but I'm not fully satisfied it will be reliable at the first race. Jacques has all the armoury in terms of skill, brain power and race craft to get the job done; and would have to be one of the lavourites.

"Jacques has brought his oval experience into Formula One and I was amazed that in Japan. at the final race last season, he was able to go through a certain comer at 130 ish - flat. He came back grinning, saying: Told you it is possible to do it flat.

The racer in 25-year-old Villeneuve has patently won the approval of the racer in Head. Frentzen, 29, is a less obviously cavalier character, but then the racing has yet to start.

Williams said: "He's a quiet person, hasn't sworn at the mechanics yet. But that doesn't mean he's too gentle. We've not

Head summarised: "I think Jacques and Heinz-Harald will be very similar in lap times in qualifying, but Iscques could have the edge in the races."

Williams and Head admit they wonder how long they can retain their competitive edge. "We'll have to go some time." Williams said, "and we've been thinking about it. It may be two years, or 15 years. I don't know. I just hope have done so had they not "it's well down the road yet."

West Indies and India start test of character

TONY COZIER reports from Kingston

While Australia and South Africa battle out what they term "The Real Decider", an ocean

start a Test series here today without such grandiose claims. The West Indies are just back from losing "The Decider" in

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away the West Indies and India in South Africa where they capitulated in the first two Tests be-

Australia and can only crase the notion that they are a waning power through a convincing triumph over opponents who have never travelled well. On six previous Caribbean tours, India have won just twice in 28 Tests. As the West Indies struggled in Australia, India's aversion to foreign fields was being exposed

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SWITZERLAND

UNITED STATES

AROUND THE RESORTS

for their young captain, Sachin Tendulkar, a god to India's fanatical cricketing millions. The packed programme has made the exercise as much a matter of the survival of the fittest as a test of skill for a team who have been tested to the hilt by the scheduling of six Tests and a dozen one-day internationals in three different countries in fore having the better of the third. the past five months. Another

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ternationals lie ahead in the coming eight weeks here. The grind has taken its toll.

The fast bowler Javagal Srinath has sought treatment for the recurring tendinitis in his shoulder and the choice of a little known off-spinner. Noel David. as his replacement shows that he irreplaceable.

with Kenny Benjamin. Cameron Cuffy and Nixon McLean all out of action with one strained muscle or another. The selectors have taken some heed of international trends and included a new leg-spinner, Rawl Lewis. in their 13, but they have also picked a new fast howler of typical West Indian dimensions in

Lewis handles the drinks. On a Sabina Park pitch that has lost all of its old life, the bowlers are not likely to have any joy. More likely are big scores from the outstanding batsmen on show: Tendulkar, Mohammad Azharuddin, Brian Lara, Carl Hooper and Shivnarine Chan-

Rugby Union

England could be looking for a new goal-kicker and stand-off for the Triple Crown match in Wales on Saturday week if Paul Grayson fails to recover in time from a hip-muscle injury he suffered playing for Northampton on Tuesday night. Grayson, who has scored 133 England, faces an anxious bat-

points in just eight games for tle to be fit and Northampton's rughy director, Ian McGeechan. said: "The muscle has been torn and there is internal bleeding. But if it is just that he has got a fighting chance of being

"He has already had two treatment sessions with our physic this morning and he and Paul need to get rid of the bleeding before they can properly assess his condition. Obviously he will not play for us this weekend.

thing pop after my first goal-kick and within a few minutes had no option but to go off."

Rewell, the England coach, will be limited by the few first-choice English stand-offs playing in the top flight. The obvious choice would be a return for Mike Catt, who has had two brief spells in the position before being dropped in favour of Gravson in both the last two seasons. The riskier option would be to give first caps to either of the England A stand-offs, Alex King or Mark Mapletoft. But there was better news of

another England player who limped off on Tuesday night after the Saracens flanker Richard Hill confirmed that he should have recovered from his ankle problem by the weekend. Wales will definitely have to

decide on a new outside-half for the England game as Arwel

Franklyn Rose, who is likely to derpaul. It is a scenario india West Indian fast bowlers have join Curtly Ambrose, Courtney would favour as a draw to start also suffered from the itinerary, Walsh and Ian Bishop to form with would suit their purposes. **England wait on Grayson**

fit for Cardiff.

Thomas had to pull out yester-Grayson said: "I felt someday because of a partially torn

ligament in his right knee. The Swansea No 10 conceded that his chances of forcing his way If he does not recover, Jack into the Lions squad for the tour to South Africa were now over.

being filled by either Jonathan Davies or Neil Jenkins. Jenkins has played at full-back throughout the Championship, despite remaining at outside-half for Pontypridd, while Cardiff's Davies has extended his can collection to 31 this season with appearances against Australia. the United States, Scotland and France. BBC Television are breaking

with tradition and showing both of the season's final Five Nations matches live. The BBC plan to show France's match against Scotland in Paris and Wales' game against England in Cardiff simultaneously. France will have the first half of their Grand Slam decider shown on BBC1, with the second half switching to



seen him under pressure yet."

المكذا من الأصل

Part-timers ready for Liverpool test

teams to win all three European competitions when they travel to Norway to meet Brann Ber-European Cup-Winners' Cup

The part-timers of Brann have not played a competitive match since October - although playing away on loan. that game completed an impressive two-leg victory over the Dutch League leaders PSV Eindhoven. They have spent the ble, but will have to shuffle his last two months training in warmer areas of Europe, most recently in Spain where they played against Spanish First and Second Division sides.

Kjell Teanfjord, the Brann coach, will look to his strikers way. Phil Babb and Neil Rud-Tore Andre Flo and Mons Ivar -dock look likely to step in Mjelde to continue their prolific alongside Dommic Matteo.

TAMES OF

partnership. Flo scored 19 goals last season while Mielde has already recorded six in this Eu-

flu, but should recover in time for the match. However, two players who definitely will not gen in the quarter finals of the be taking part are the lecland international goalkeeper Birkir Kristinsson and the midfielder Jan Ove Pedersen, who were not re-registered in time after

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, will delaying naming his team until as late as possidefence. The Norwegian defender Bjorne Tore Kvarme is meligible while Mark Wright injured a leg in Sunday's 1-0 defeat by Aston Villa and has not travelled with the side to Nor-

Evans' main concern will be to keep a clean sheet, but he is hoping that Robbie Fowler re-Liverpool commune their campropean campaign discovers his goal touch should paign to join the elite band of Mielde has had a bad dose of a chance arise. The striker has made some glaring misses in re-cent weeks and although his ap-petite and confidence appear undiminished, a goal would obviously be welcome.

Attitude, as much as ability, will be in demand on what is likely to be a bitterly cold night in the west of Norway. Fowler could never be accused of lacking in either department and his strike partner, Stan Collymore, may also have to dig deep into

Liverpool made their reputation in Europe by snuffing out sides away from home and then destroying them at Antield. Evans, who was a member of the back-row staff during those glory years, will hope for a similar performance tonight.

More grief for Robson

Barcelona may have to use their third-choice goalkeeper Julen Lopetegui for their European Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final home leg against

AIK Solna tonight. The Portuguese international Vitor Baia suffered a neck in-Busquets is still recovering from a knock. Bobby Robson, the club's coach, was left with no choice but to call up Lopetegui, compounding the former Eng-

land manager's problems. Barcelona were stunned at said. the weekend by their 4-0 Spanish League defeat at Tenerife, a result that left Robson's side nine points adrift of the leaders Real Madrid.

Apart from Vitor Baia, Robson will also be without the midfielder Oscar Garcia and Amaral formerly of Italy's Parpossibly the Portuguese dema, and the Dutch winger Fernando Couto through injury. Emmanuel senal player, will both be watch-

able to call upon the services of his key striker Ronaldo, who missed last week's Spanish Cup game against Atletico Madrid because of international duty

Ronaldo may enjoy himself spirational captain, can redisagainst AIK, a team regarded cover his touch in the first leg. as one of the softest options remaining in the competition. The difference between the formances recently, but his two sides may become more ev-coach, Claudio Ranieri, beident due to the Swedes' lengthy winter lay-off.

Stefan Söderberg, the AIK manager, said yesterday that he was pleased with his team's performance in a Scandinavian chib compention held in Cyprus last week. AIK reached the final, which they lost, but beat Norway's Lillestrom in the

semi-final. The Swedish international defender Patrik Englund has not played since a knee ligament operation last October. "We're facing one of the best teams in the world on Thursday, so any-thing we can do to disrupt them

is positive," Soderberg said. Italy's Florentina will be hoping their Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta rediscovers his form for tonight's Cup-Winners'

Cup quarter-final with Benfica. With both teams struggling in their domestic leagues, success

salvaging some giory from a dis-

Fiorentina, with the usually prolific Batistata suddenly find. Sunday's meeting between Feing scoring difficult, are lanyenoord and PSV Eindhoven ing scoring difficult, are languishing 12th in the Italian League, only five points clear of the relegation zone. Benfica Dutch League championship, are third in Portugal - but are with Ajax, 26 times champions jury in training on Tuesday, are third in Portugal - but are while his understudy Carlos 14 points adrift of the leaders,

> "It is a challenge that is go-ing to stimulate both sides. We are going to do everything possible to make the next round," Manuel Jose, the Benfica coach,

Both teams have injury problems and several key players cannot be used because they have already played for other teams in Europe this season

Glenn Helder, the former Arke is cup-tied because of. ing from the stands where they. previous appearance for his former side, Sporting Lisbon.

However, Robson will be jured his right leg.

in Europe. Earlier is beat Feyer

Fiorentina will be without the tormer Everton wi Kanchelskis and the injured midfielder Massimo Orlando, but the Italians will be happy enough if Batistuta, their in

The Argentinian has been criticised for some poor perlieves he will prove his worth against Benfica, twice winners in the European Cup but looking for their first Cup-Winners'

"Gabriel Batistutal is not the sort of player who gets de-pressed. I think you'll find that he has a great wish to prove to everybody that he is still the

same Batistuta," he said. Paris St-Germain will be looking for a face-saving victory over AEK Athens in their Cun-Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg tonight.

The holders, aiming for a fifth successive European semifinal, sank to a new low on Saturday with elimination from the French Cup by Fourth Division amateurs Clermont.

PSG came through one crisis earlier in the season when they beat Galatasaray 4-0 at home in October to reach the in Europe offers the chance of quarter-finals 6-4 on aggregate.

PSV may have title within reach

could be the match which decides the destination of the and four-times European Cup winners, for once only among

the also rans in the Netherlands. PSV and Feyenoord, who have each won the Dutch title 13 times, are first and second in the standings, with PSV three points ahead. Ajax are down in fifth place, another 15 points

In recent times, PSV have fared better in the league, win-ning the championship four times in the last 10 years, com-The Brazilian midfielder pared with Feyenoord's single Amarel, formerly of Italy's Parsuccess in 1993. This season, PSV have again played the bet-ter football, particularly in big games, although both sides have failed to make an impact

> Earlier in the season, PSV beat Feyenoord with a club record 7-2 victory. Recent hisfavours Feyenoord, who have not lost at home to PSV in 10

> Feyenoord's home form is their traditional strength. Their impressive 50,000 capacity stadium is generally full of noisy, passionate fans - something

> PSV have never had. PSV are often considered to be a soulless, clean-cut businesslike club, which is an image that has resulted largely from its long association with the elec-

> tronics company Philips. The match lacks the passion of the traditional Dutch "classic" meeting of Ajax and Feyenoord, but is also a safer oc-

> A rising trend of hooliganism at Dutch games in recent months has caused the mayor of Rotterdam to move the game from the evening to an afternoon kick-off.

> Police are hoping that nothing happens on the pitch to in-cite violence in the stands unlike a bizarre incident when the two teams met in the late

On that occasion, Bertus Quaars of PSV was sent off for head-butting a imesman. It later transpired the linesman had butted Quaars.

Oreste Dominioni, the lawyer

Motor racing



Toon Army's mutinous legionnaire made sure Kenny Dalglish woke up after his 46th birthday with a strong Gallic kick to his morning-after feeling.

The Newcastle manager could have been excused for wishing Monaco had done him a favour by dropping off David Ginola in the Cote of Azur on the way home after their 1-0 victory in the Uefa Cup quarter-final first leg tie at St James' Park on Tuesday. Gmola probably wished they had too, and not merely because of the ire that will have been provoked by his most forthright tilt in public at Dalglish, who has picked him just twice in seven matches.

on Tyneside. Simon Turnbull reports

have been impressed by Gino- director, Marcel Dib. about the la's protestation that he was be-transfer of his client. ing "mucked about" and by the Frenchman's claim that Matthew Le Tissier said to him after Southampton's victory at St James' Park last Saturday: "We can't understand why you're not playing all the time. Have you stolen his wife or

David Ginola (left) and Monaco's Martin Dietou compare notes

something?" The toleration threshold of the Newcastle manager will have been stretched to the very limit, though, by subsequent reports that Ginola's personal manager, Jean François Larios,

Dalglish will certainly not has had talks with the Marseille

A return to his native south of France would undoubtedly suit Ginola, whose father. René. has been a lifelong Marseille supporter, and whose homesick wife. Coraline, used to live opposite Marseille's ground. Dalglish, however, is likely to be as displeased by any touting of one of his players as Kevin Keegan was last summer when Ginola's agents attempted to

engineer a move to Barcelona. Keegan became so exasper-ated by Ginola's fitful form be

deemed the 30-year-old surplus to requirements for his last four matches in charge of Newcastle. A parting of the ways now seems inevitable, though it will be on a timescale Dalglish, not

his disgruntled player, dictates. The index finger Shaka Hislop dislocated on Tuesday night is another matter of concern for the Newcastle manager, who faces the prospect of restoring the transfer-listed Pavel Srnicek to goalkeeping duty against Liverpool at Anfield

on Monday night. The least of Dalglish's worries vesterday was the return leg in Monte Carlo, where Newcastle will be looking to win by a twogoal margin away from home for the first time in 17 months.

Laudrup is the **Old Firm** danger

sport

Brian Laudrup is preparing himself for an Old Firm duck with a player known as "Tarzan" but has admitted that his memories of Celtic's new "bhoy". Enrico Annoni, are non-existent.

The Danish forward and the Italian defender did battle in Italy, although neither seems to remember it. But one or the other should enjoy an unforgettable evening at Parkhead tonight when Celtic and Rangers meet in a live televised Tennents Scottish Cup quarter-final. Annoni. Celtic's cut-price buy

from Roma last month, is poised for an Old Firm baptism against Laudrup, either at right-back or in a back three. "I can't really remember him, although I played against Roma a few times for Fiorentina," recalled Laudrup, although Annoni said the contest came when he was at Torino.

"lualian defenders are always tough. They play to the limit and sometimes even beyond it, but I'm sure it won't be any different for me from facing a Scottish defender." Lau-

Annoni, known as "Tarzan" in Rome and the scariest-looking defender to arrive in Scotland since Hearts signed another Italian, Pasquile Bruno. was non-committal on the prospect of trying to tame Laudrup who, along with Celtic's 28-goal Jorge Cadete, is a leading candidate for the Player of the Year award in Scotland.

"When I joined Rangers in 1994 people told me about the Old Firm game," Laudrup suid. "I went into it understanding what a local derby can mean in a big city and you only have to experience it once to understand what it means to people here.

"I've played in a number of them now and they are still unique occasions. But they are the games I want to play in as a player because there will be 50,000 there and millions watching on television. You enjoy them if you win them, of course. There is a lot of pressure on the players and manager but I still look forward to them.

Rangers fans will be looking to Laudrup for inspiration again. with Paul Gascoigne still unfit be-cause of the ankle injury he sustained in the Amsterdam six-a-side tournament which kept him out of England's defeat by Italy on 12 February. Gascoigne is expected to have the

"If he gets the go-ahead from the specialist there is a possibility he could still be fit for the Premier Division match against Celtic on March 16," Walter Smith. Rangers manager, said. Smith has still heard nothing

official from Sweden's captain. Jonas Thern, who has been quoted as saying he will accept a two-year contract to join Rangers in the summer. "If that's his decision I will be delighted, but as yet we haven't heard from him officially," Smith added.

Meanwhile, Dundee United's manager. Tommy McLean. paid tribute to his team after a hat-trick of Bell's Manager of the Month awards. McLean has won the accolade for the third month in a row after a superb run of form by United.

"I am delighted with this award and it is fine recognition for the efforts of the players at Dundee United in recent weeks, McLean said. To win three in a row shows that we have achieved a degree of consistency which is what everyone strives for in football."

It is the first time such a feat has been achieved since the inception of the awards by the

FOOTBALL RESULTS

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y Understool.
PONTINE LEASUE Second Division: Man-chaster Cay Merradicki 1; Rotherham 3 Hull Cay C; Western 3 Girmaby 1.
AVON INSLITATION First Divi-sion: Windleton 2 West Ham 1.

Doubt cast on imola surface

Desmond Howard, the Green Bay Packers' Super Bowl Most Valuable Player, has agreed to a four-year contract with the Oakland Raiders. The Heisman Tro-

defending Frank Williams, the Formula One team owner Beautone Luciani MBL, Allanta 93 Clavelana BB; Charlotte 105 Sen Antonia 98: Metric 106 Detroir 99; Indiana 98 Boston 95; New York 93 Majasukare 88; Wash-rigton 107 Privatelistria 106: Orlando 101 Sent-rie 88; La Laiers 102 Detais 92; Portland 123 Mar Jeney 116, Hauston 113 IA Chapers 103 charged with manslaughter after the death of Ayrton Senna, yesterday raised doubts about

conditions at the Imola track. The defence rejected charges that the crash which killed the Billiards triple world champion at the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix was caused by faulty engineering by the Williams team in

steering wheel modifications.

Dominioni said the prosecution had failed to investigate fully the possibility that Senna's death may have been due to possible "anomalies in the asphalt" which could have caused cars "to become unstable". However, Roberto Landi.

defending the accused Imola officials, Federico Bendinelli and Giorgio Poggi, told the court later that the track had been "absolutely normal". The trial continues on 11

American football

phy winner from Michigan set a Super Bowl record with 10 returns for 244 yards, including a 99-yarder for a touchdown in a 35-21 win over the New Basketball

STRACHAN WORLD MATCH PLAY CHAM-PIONSHIP (Norwich) Second round: G Sem (Ind) to M Rehan (Ind) 4-7; A Standika (Ind) to S Herdcastic (Ind) 4-7; A Standika (Ind) to S Herdcastic (Ind) 4-2. Ned round: D Joshi (Ind) bt A Agrawal (Ind) 4-2.

BOWIS
WORREY'S ALL ENGLAND INDOOR CHANPWORREY'S (York): Triples, quarter-finals:
Cambridge Cresterton by Cherwell 18-12:
Pollestone by King George Field 22-18.
Semi-finals (sidps in brackets): Cambridge
Chesterton (I, Jaman) bi Folkestone (A Harreon) 17-8; Egham (K Shut) by Eidon, Newcaste (A Hubbard) 18-10. Unbedged pairs,
first roomat I, Marcalle and D Fredon Pachardcond is to Alkande and B Drustas (Mote Park). son's) bt A Meade and B Douglas (Mote Park) 34-7: J Ameud and J McAustan (Atherley) bt £ Hutley and P White (Esser County) 22-21 E Hutter and Printer inser country 2: 25 (either extra end): D Galborns and C Carlo (lifensield, North London) bt C Day and P Carlor (Cay of Buy 22-15; A Burgass and C Colve (Northword) bt 1 Buller and C Neave (North Walsham) 29-28.

Crawford Ashley, the British and Euro-pean light-heavyweight champion yes-terday agreed to take a smaller share

of the purse to challenge Chris Eubank, although the contest may not possible until June because of other commit-ments, Eubank, the former World Box-

ing Organisation middle and super mg organisation muote and septembers in corneback against the American Shan-non Landberg in Dubai on 27 March. Sh days earlier, Ashley will be in Atlantic. On to challenge the winner of the Roy Jones-Montell Griffin World Boxing. Council light-heavyweight trie light and he may light again in May.

Amanda Spaiding has become the first woman in Notinghamshire's history to be elected to the club's general committee. The 39-year-old chartered ac-cournam was one of eight candidates standing for a place on the committee. Chris Caims is likely to miss the New Can's cam's visit to India bater this year. The New Zealand coach. Steve Rhon, said yesterday that he wants Cams to undergo an operation to repair an ankle injury immediately after New Zealand's Test and one-day senes persons. St I apia concludes later this against Sri Lanka concludes later this month.

Football

Sunderland are giving a trial to Bristol Cry's transfer-listed goalkeeper, Kelth Welch, who last week had a tinef trial at Bradford City.
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Re-

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Re-arranged statches: Wed12 Mar. Wresham y Lucor. Tue 18 Mar. Transcre y Monches-ter City. Tue 15 Apr. Berningsam v Transcre. Wed 15 Apr. Manchester City v Grinstiv. Tue 22 Apr. Ipsnob v Manchester City. Pil 25 Apr. Berningsam v Colord. Fri 25 Apr. Norwoch v Manchester City. Sun 27 Apr. Port Valle v Wolves. Postported matches: Tue 18 Mar. Stockport v York, Wed 19 Mar. Berningham

SPORTING DIGEST v Tranmere The 25 Men; Chestemetti v Stock-port; Darlington v Carliste, Tue 15 April Tran-mere v Manchester Criv.

SOFT
SAHARA CUP FOUR-BALL STROKEPLAY
MATCH (Agadis, Mort: Europe 11, Abrica 21,
(European names Grati; S Torrance and R Russell (Scor 69) lots to Westmer and C Wheelen
(SA) 68; P Broadhurst (Eng. and P Harmigton
(Ne) 66 bit Y E Hosson and M Mistroure (Mort
70, A Cottant (Scor and P H) Johansson (Swer
71 lots to 1 Harkets and B Poppas (SA) 69; M
James (Eng. and C Poppas (SA) 69; M
R Wessels (SA) and T Johnstone (Zimi 67.

Hockey

Ireland's hopes of reaching the finals of the men's World Cup are virtually over Ireland's hopes of reaching the mass of the men's World Cup are unfuelly over after they suffered their second defeat in consecutive days at the qualifiers in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. They followed Juestay's 2-1 defeat to Belgium by losing 3-1 to South Korea, for whom Song Seong Tae scored a hat-mok. Lisnagency's Julian Stevenson netted Ireland's solitary strike eight manutes from time to cut the Koreans' lead to 2-1.

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS (Maile Lumpur): Pool At Susterland 1. South June 2.

BRITISH AEROSPACE SCHOOLS U-18 CHARPHONISHIP (Nation Keynes National Stadium): Queen's Wood Scrool, Hatheld Amold School B Hathy Con School C; Amold School School C; Tome Alice Harpur School D Herry Con School C; Amold School Condano 4; Artold 1 Dame Alice Harpur 0; Henry Cort 1 Amold C; Queen's Wood 1; Contano O Dame Alice Harpur 0; Gordano 2; Henry Cort C Charles Alice Harpur 0; Gordano 2; Henry Cort C; Porre Alice Harpur 0; Gordano 2; Henry Cort C; Porre Alice Harpur 0; Gordano 2; Henry Cort C; Porre Alice Harpur 0; Gordano 2; Henry Cort C; Porre Alice Harpur 0; Gordano 3; S Deme Alice Harpur 2.

4; 4 Amold 3; 5 Deme Alice Harpur 2.

Pools dividends LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24 pts £30,299 8), 23 £178.20, 22 £18.90, 21 £5.20. Four draws £21.70, 10 homes £855.00. Five sways £13.55

VERNOMS: Troble chance: 24 pts 55,289 10, 23 £102 35, 22 £16.99 50-per Shots £189.00 Preniler £0 £436.00. SERTENS: Treble chance: 24 pts £608.75, 23 £6.10, 22 £0.85, 7 par draws £16.15, Five awars £28.65. Eight homes £37.90 eways 1.20.03. bigm names 1.31.50 EXTERS: Troble chance: 24 pts 11.46.65. 23 112.75. 22 11.20, 21 10.30. Bigm sways: 24pts 110.75. 22 10.30. Four debtes 115.20. Bight homes 114.80. Four debtes 13.00. Super 7 1134.60.

Rugby League

Squart Spruce, the Great Britain full-back, has agreed to stay with the Bradford Bulls until the year 2000. Spruce was ongnally contracted to the B the end of the 1999 season. cted to the Bulls until

Rugby Union

The Scotland A selectors have left out James Craig, the teenage wing for their match against France A at Rodez a week tomorrow. Yearn manager Doug Morgan said the West of Scotland filer had been omitted because it was telt he had not tully recovered from a flu bug. Scotland are able to call in the capped wing Craig Joiner, who has resumed playing with MOBBS MEMORIAL MATCH: East Midlands

MOBBS MEMORIAL MATCH: East Midlands 38 Barbanans 72.

SCOTLAND A IV Prance A, 14 March, Rodex; D Lee (London Scottsh); C Joyner (Localiter), C Bitursey (Hawich, R Eriksson (London Scottsh); D Stark (Melrose); A Donaldison (Currier, G Burns (Watsonians); P Wright (Melrose), G Buillach (Mess of Scottsh), S Forgiason (Peebles); S Miurray (Bedford), S Grimes (Watsonians), C Machier (Massonians), C Nog (Metrose, capt), S Hollmes (London Scottsh), Replacements; S Lang (Henod's FP), S Nichol (Melrose), I

Fairley (kelso). S Reid (Boroughmur), M. Browne (Metrose), J Hay (Hawich).

Monica Seles suffered a further setback in her bid to recover from injury when she was forced to withdraw from the State Farm Event Cup in California. Seles, who

a tournament since December.
FRANKLIN TEMPLETON MEN'S TOURNAMNET ISCOUTSdale, Arbona) Singles, first
round: A Medineder (Unit bit I, Lavalle (Mer)
1-6-3-6-8-3: C Radd (Nor) bit N Perera (Wen)
6-4-6-7-6-3. A Methoder (Unit bit I) Lavalle
(Mex) 7-6-3-6-8-3: C Radd (Ror) bit N Perera
(Nor) 6-4-6-7-6-3. OVER-35 CHAMPIONSHIP (Nagles, Florista) Round-hobbit: 1
Connors (US) bit G Vilas (Arg. 6-3-6-4; 1 Uoyd
(GB) of B Borg (Swe) 2-6-7-6-10-8.
ROTTERDAM WORLD INDOOR MEN'S
TOURNAMENT (Netherlands) Singles, first
round: 1 Carbonel (Sp. bit 7 Johnsson (Swed)
7-5-7-6; N Kuefer (Ger) bit A Olinovsky (Rus)
6-2-6-2. Second mount? P Kroza (Cz Rep)
bit 3 van Herck (Rei) 7-6-6-2; R Furlan (b) bit
O Delatire (Fr) 7-5-7-6

TODAY'S NUMBER

500,000 The number of dollars owed

by Roscoe Tanner in child support. A warrant has been requested by New Jersey prosecutors for the 1979 Wimbledon finalist's arrest.

No complaint by Reed over replacement

Football

ADAM SZRETER

Mike Reed, the Birmingham referee at the centre of the storm surrounding Chelsea's extra-time penalty winner against Leicester in their FA Cup fifth-round replay last week, has refused to be drawn on the decision by the Premier League to replace him for the Chelsea-Leicester match at

Stamford Bridge next month. Reed's decision incensed the Leicester fans and his car, which also contained members of his family, was attacked at traffic lights in London on the way home. On Monday police expressed reservations about the wisdom of Reed being allowed to referee the game on 19 April because of fears for his safety. It led to the Football Association saving it was "likely" that Reed would be replaced if a re-

League which took the decision to axe Reed. A statement read: The FA Premier League have decided to appoint a replacement for Mike Reed for the Chelsea-Leicester City game in April. The decision has been taken after careful consideration of the various factors involved and in consultation with the ap-

propriate interested parties. Reed said: "I have no comment to make. The statement from the Premier League says it all. That's enough as far as I am concerned." When asked if he was happy with the decision. he repeated his previous com-

Leicester's manager Martin O'Neill branded the 117thminute penalty decision, which led to Cheisea's defender Franck Lebocuf scoring the winner from the spot, as "dis-graceful". But O'Neill and his Chelsea counterpart, Ruud quest was made by the police. Gullit, came out against the use

Ferguson refuses to release players

GUY HODGSON

The perennial club versus country dispute will be aired again this summer when Alex Ferguson refuses to release his Manchester United players for England duty.

England's coach, Glenn Hoddle, will need his powers of persuasion to prevent the international tournament in France descending into no more than a run out for his reserves.

Fifa, the world governing body, confirmed yesterday that English club managers will be free to withdraw their players from the tournament, which begins on 3 June and is classified as a series of friendly matches. As such club managers have the

> ACROSS Deviated in contract.

grabbing trick back (8) Waterproof without

question? How can one

10 One in group making a 24

with skip (10)

12 Lady's without silver for the bill (6)

14 Two Rads contrived to

keep unionist away

from centre (8)

15 Sets about punctures

Slow movement gets a

soldier in trouble (6)

Is caught in port, see

pile (4) Garbage is thinning out 25

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players. Ferguson has said he will exercise that right while Liverpool's manager Roy Evans has

described the event as "crazy". England are due to meet Brazil. Italy and the host country over 10 days in June but Ferguson has already said his players will not be available.

Ferguson said: "This summer will be a rest for Manchester United players. Some of them will be playing in World Cup qualifiers on 8 June. We can't do anything about that but we can about the others.

"Over the last few years we've played an average of 50 games and this season will be no different. Then there are internationals and friendly internationals. It's such a strain and with young players it can't

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

phosphorus precipitate

23 Gushed about male, the 6

Direction includes strait

- not much of a sound

European producing flush (4-5)

Beef's tender round

26 Edifying short address

Ray composed (8)

DOWN

for a drink (8)

Bishop always has time

Vehicle, bit of a trailer?

Strong affiliation (6)

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One with bouquet vo-

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However, it was the Premier of technology to aid officials eague which took the decision and the possibility of taking up that option was ruled out by Fifa at its weekend annual meeting. O'Neill also said at the weekend that he was happy for Reed to take charge of the next meet-

ing of the two clubs.

Two FA charges against Bruce Grobbelaar will remain on the books while the goalkeeper and his fellow-accused await the outcome of any re-tri-al in the Winchester Crown Court match-fixing case.

Meanwhile, it looks certain that the FA will redraft its rules governing betting on games. "Everything is on hold until the full criminal proceedings have been completed," the FA spokesman Steve Double said. We are constantly reviewing FA rules, including those relating to betting and that was made clear some time ago."

Roger Stanislaus vesterday scrapped plans to launch his return to football with the Second Division strugglers Notts County following his 12-month drugs ban. The 28-year-old former Brentford and Leyton Orient defender, who became the first English footballer to fail a drugs test in February last year, was lined up to play for Couns reserves against Wolves last night. However Stanislaus, who was sacked by Orient after testing positive and has been training at Meadow Lane this week, decided to withdraw from

Sam Allardyce, the County manager, had earlier indicated he would consider offering Stanislaus, who was banned for 12 months after testing positive for cocaine in December 1995. a contract if he had shaped up

well in the game.
Nicolas Anelka, Arsenal's 17-year-old signing from Paris St-Germain, made his debut for the Gunners in yesterday's reserve-team game against Norwich City as a half-time substitute after his international clearance arrived during

cluding dash of rum) in

Got through? Letter

turned up in flat (6) Model needs work: is

not unhinged! (10)

getting married (8) Not distinguished

21 I run on rough fuel

that's fuming (6)

Commented about rival

enough for the bar (8)

Fishes run in rings (6)

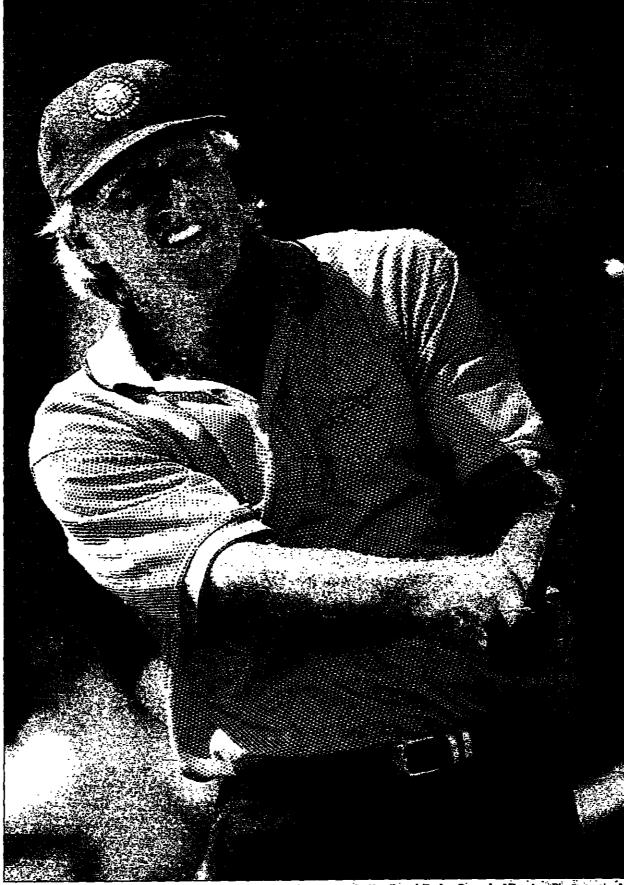
Create confusion after

... joint with lots of wine

Sunday joint,... (6)

this helping (6)
13 Coherent - certainly

court (10)



Greg Norman prepares to take on the world's best golfers today in the Doral-Ryder Open in Miami. Photograph: AP

Pressure for Kyder Cup change

Sentiment for change in qualiiving rules for the European Ryder Cup appears to be growing as it becomes increasingly clear that several major European

players will not qualify. Seve Ballesteros, the European captain, complained last week that his players should be able to pick up Ryder Cup points in the more significant PGA Tour events, such as this week's Doral-Ryder Open, and wants to be allowed to make four choices this year and not two, as the case now is.

But while Colin Montgomerie supports the Spaniard's line. Sam Torrance, who plays in the Morocean Open in Agadir this week in search of Ryder Cup points, thinks three picks plus nine selected automatically would be the ideal choice. Montgomerie leads the Eu-

and the Swede Jesper Parnevik are among the leading players who do not look likely to qualify. Faldo's victory on Sunday in Los Angeles carned no points since only the major champi-onships played in the US count

for European Ryder Cup points. Parnevik has two seconds and a third on the PGA Tour this year but has received no Ryder Cup points for his efforts. Another European likely not to make the Ryder Cup team is Jose Maria Olazabal, who re-

turned very strongly at Dubai last week after missing 18 months of competition because of foot problems. I'm sure Seve would love Olazabal at 85 per cent," Mont-gomerie said. "He can handle

the pressure and that's what it's all about."

Olazabal, who teamed with Ballesteros in several Ryder Cups to form a virtually un-

ropean Ryder cup points list, but beatable duo, proved he can still and only got into the team be-Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer play by shooting a 65 in the third cause Jose Maria Olazabal and the Swede Jesper Parnevik round at Dubai.

"It's not too late to change," Langer, who is 18th on the European list, said about altering the selection process. "We've got seven months to go. I would strongly support any move to get

The European team can es-tablish its own qualifying rules but officials have shown no in-clination to modify the rules.

Torrance, hoping to play in his ninth successive Ryder Cup in Valderrama, Spain, in September, thinks that for the captain to have four picks is too many. "It is imperative to play our best team. But I would sug-gest three picks, not four," he said. "That's because I think you also need to give more opportunities to the players on the European Tour. Then there would

be no controversy. "We had only two picks last time, Ian Woosnam missed out

cause Jose Maria Olazabal dropped out. You don't want to go into a Ryder Cup without someone like Woosie.

"With the way Jesper Parnevik is playing in the United States, he is looking like a certain pick and Nick Faldo will be in the team whether he qualifies or not. Then there is Olazabal coming back, and Woosie and

Bernhard Langer to consider. "They may all play more in America and what if only two of them qualify? Someone we

need in the team will miss out." Torrance is ninth on the Ryder Cup points table but he has made no headway since the beginning of the year. That is because he missed the half-way cut in the two Australian tournaments at the end of January and has had the last month off.

"It was sad to miss the two cuts in Australia, but now I've got to get in there and get in four good rounds this week," he said.

Hogan is driving force for **Faldo**

The Doral-Ryder Open in Florida brings the PGA Tour to the East Coast of the United States today - and with it most of the leading names beginning their run-up to the Masters.

Greg Norman, Ernie Els Nick Price, Mark O'Meara, Colin Montgomerie, Phil Mickel-son, Fred Couples, Vijay Singli and Jesper Parnevik are among those joining the Masters cham-pion Nick Faldo, the US Open winner, Steve Jones, and the PGA champion, Mark Brooks.

The two biggest names missing will be the Open champion, Tom Lehman, and Tiger Woods. The young American took the week off to be with his father, who has just been dis-charged from hospital following

heart bypass surgery.

Montgomerie, who has topped the European Tour money list for the last four years, will play seven consecutive weeks in the United States as he tries to break through and finally win a major championship.
The Doral will be Norman's

first PGA Tour event since the Tour Championship last Octo ber in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Frank Nobilo of New Zealand, one of the leading lights of the Euro-pean Tour, joined the PGA Tour this year, finishing 17th in his first event at the Nissan Open, eight strokes behind Fal-do. Nobilo, who has had four top-10 finishes in major championships the last three years, will also be at Doral.

· Faldo has entered a phase of his career where his main opponent is history - names like Jack Nicklaus, Bobby Jones, Walter Hagen, Ben Hogan and Gary Player. The flesh-andblood opponents - Norman, Montgomerie and Els this week at Doral, for example - are mere incidentals who occasionally get in the way on Faldo's assault on posterity.
"When Faldo stands on the

course with his arms folded his body language is saying that he's the only person on the course, Tom Lehman said about Faldo's intensity.

Faldo never hits a careless shot. Yet there are times when he is not in his major championship mode, when he seems like he is trying to perfect something he can use on another, more important day.

"I think I'm a player who has to be inspired," Faldo said af-ter winning at Riviera last weekend. "I think it's everything, the atmosphere, the golf course,

everything." The victory was Faldo's sixth on the PGA Tour - and three of those earned him the Mas-

ters Green Jacket.

"I'm not one who can just roll up and play," Faldo said. "I need something to get me going." His inspiration at Riviera last weekend was one of the greats whose achievements he is attempting to emulate.

به وه الدم

"This is not just another win," Faldo said. "Riviera has a great history and I know it was a favourite of Ben Hogan's. This is the kind of course where I was meant to win, and I played exactly how I wanted to."

Hogan is one of only 10 players to have won more than the six majors Paldo has achievedthree Masters and three Open Championships.

Wigan exiled by £12m Central Park sale

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Wigan will leave both Central Park and the town within two years following the club's sale of its ground for more than £12m to Tesco. The game's most successful club will move in with Bolton Wanderers at their new ground in Horwich, until they can build a new stadium in Wigan itself.

"It has always been our de-sire to play in a modern, state of the art stadium in Wigan and this deal is buying us time," the club's chairman, Jack Robinson.

The deal was immediately attacked by the chairman of Wigan Athletic, whose plan to buy Central Park and redevelop it for joint use had been approved by a meeting of the rughy club's shareholders in January.

This is a disastrously sad day for Wigan," said Dave Whelan, who added that Robinson and his fellow-director, Tom Rathbone, had "completely and utterly disregarded the views of the shareholders".

Whelan, the former Black-burn Rovers full-back and multi-millionaire who has long sought an involvement with the rughy club, is also exploring whether he could challenge the

directors' legal right to enter into the contract with Tesco. Robinson, on the other hand,

regards the board as having no choice but to accept the improved Tesco bid, which was three times Whelan's offer. He has also described the terms of the lease under which Wigan would have rented Central Park - their home since 1902 -

from Whelan as "a financial straitjacket". As for riding roughshod over the shareholders, Robinson ar-

gues that circumstances have changed radically, with the improved offer from Tesco and the revelation of the Whelan lease. "We have a duty to get the

best deal possible - and this is it," Robinson said.

The availability of the new ground in Horwich gives Wigan breathing space, although the idea of moving out of the borough is not popular with the 'As a short-term, stop-gap

arrangement they may feel very differently about it," Robinson

How short-term it will be, however, depends on Wigan successfully finding and developing a new site in the town. something they can only do in co-operation with the local council. However, relations with the borough have often been

Robinson admitted that the availability of an alternative ground nearby might improve the club's bargaining position with the council. But, as Richard Gee, the club's development advisor, put it: "Our primany intention is to build a new ground within the Wigari boundary, but we can't say cat-egorically that we are going to be able to do it. We ve got the will and the desire to do it, but we need the same willingness from the council."

Failing that, the exile of rugby league's most famous name could be a long one.

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